

KATHINA ROBE OFFERING CEREMONY

In remembrance of and with respect to our grandparents, parents and teachers

Dr Kyaw Htun Aye and Dr Htet Nwe Win

Sunday 28th October 2018



Peace Pagoda Major Repair Progress Report

Birmingham Peace Pagoda recently celebrated its 20th anniversary on 22nd July 2018. Major renovation of the pagoda started before summer. Offering Gold Robe to Pagoda and concrete foot path around pagoda was completed in July. Pagoda roof repair continue to take place in autumn. The roof suffers from leakage sometimes ago and requires thorough attention of repair. Therefore, pagoda Trustee seeks advice from different engineering experts and repair work started in September.

Original roofing membrane is now removed. The old felt have been cleaned and left in place as a secondary protect layer and repaired any damage. A new vapour barrier has now been installed. A new cut to fall system is installed to move the water to the outlets and bring the building up to current building regulations. The cut to fall insulation is fixed and the liquid waterproofing layer is installed. A metal drip to enhance the existing drip from the concrete of the base of the Pagoda is also in place for better protection.

All major roof repair work successfully completed in October and the roof leakage is resolved. We are now continuing with internal pagoda renovation. Thank you all for your generous donations. Our Peace pagoda will be safe and stay strong with your continuous support.



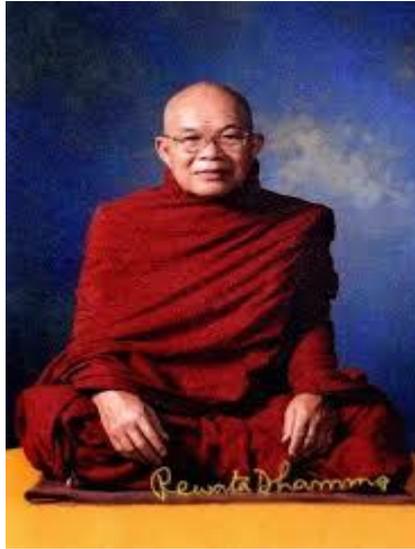
Peace Pagoda Donation from Jul18 – Oct18

No	Name	Amount
1	Mrs Aye Mya Khin, London	£500.00
2	U Win Tin Daw Nyo, Birmingham	£50.00
3	Dr Lay Maung+Daw Than Than Aye, London	£1,000.00
4	Mr Hla Thein, Nanetan	£100.00
5	Dr Myo Thu+ Dr Lynn Lynn Sein Newark	£300.00
6	Dr Aung Kyi Myint+ Dr Htay Htay Yi, London	£100.00
7	U Bala Zeyya+ Daw MarLar, London	£100.00
8	Mr Yan+ Ann Love-Lock, Birmingham	£500.00
9	Ms Ellen Parker, Birmingham	£500.00
10	U Thant Zin+ Daw Su Su Thwe	£500.00
11	Dr Aung Myo Lwin+ Dr Myat Myat Htwe	£100.00
12	Mr B C Thomas+Mrs S E Thomas	£50.00
13	Mrs Anita Cotterall	£50.00
14	Mr Brian+Mrs Sue	£200.00
15	Mr Paul Trafford	£30.00
16	Mr Arnold Kincaid	£40.00
17	Mr Duncan Kennedy	£25.00
18	Daw Su Su Htwe	£20.00
19	Dr Swe Linn+ Dr Thinzar Minn (son) Soe Nyan Lyinn	£50.00
20	Dr Aung Myint Kyaw+ Daw Mya Mya Aye, Wolverhampton	£100.00
21	Drs Wai Thet Phyoo+ Ei Ei Phyu Khine	£300.00
22	Mg Htet Hla+ Ma Thet Sone, London	£50.00
23	Ms Rube Oo	£241.00
24	U Nyunt Wai+ Daw Nyo Nyo Myint	£100.00
25	Dr Kyaw Myint Oo & Daw Than Than Ywe , London	£1,000.00

Proposal for Teaching Buddhism in the West

Dr Rewatadhamma

30/10/2003



Birmingham Buddhist Vihara was established in 1981 with the aim of propagating the Buddhist teachings in the West, both through the medium of meditation and study of the scriptures. Over the years our capacity has grown, especially after the opening of the Dhammatalaka Peace Pagoda and then of the establishment of the Sangharama Monastery in its grounds. Our activities are now more than purely local. Some of the monks staying there teach regularly in a number of places and receive invitations from various organisations both in Britain and abroad.

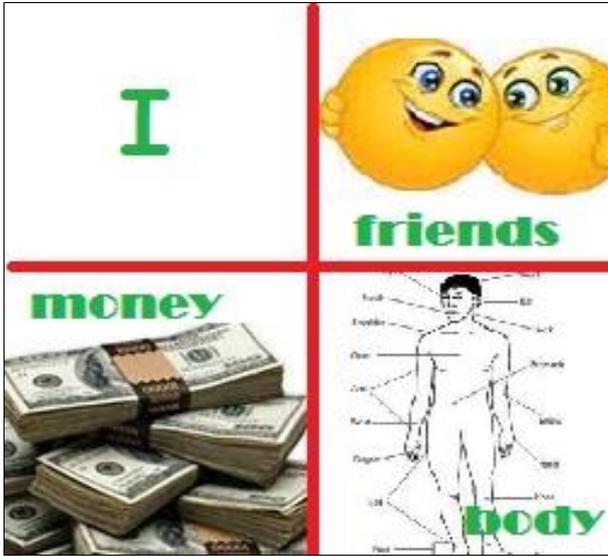
This year seven monks are keeping the Vassa, which makes us one of the larger monastic communities in Britain. We hold meditation classes for beginners as well as our long-term more practised supporters. On another day we hold Scripture Classes and there are classes in more general studies over the weekend. Almost every month there is a meditation retreat and twice a year a ten-day retreat with an international attendance. Others come from Europe for private study and meditation retreats. As well as young samaneras, an increasing number of mature adults, both male and female, have also been taking temporary ordination. In addition, we have emphasised our educational role among the general population from the beginning and have hosted a growing number of visits from schools of all levels as well as colleges and universities most weeks of the year.

As well as our teaching function, our aim has been to work in a missionary capacity. Our envisaged activities in this respect are two-fold:

1. To give basic training to those who will then go on to the East for further training. This has often included those who have taken the robe either as Theravadins or in Mahayana tradition, with whom we have a special relationship. Our ability to further this was formerly not as well resourced as it is now.
2. We now have the capacity to train those of Eastern origin who have completed their Buddhist studies and now wish to learn English and have experience of adapting their teaching methods to Western cultural expectations.

Our present residential capacity is for ten monks/males and four nuns/females. However, in furtherance of our aims, we have plans for a large Dhamma Hall which will include kitchen facilities and provision of 10 meditation cells with separate washing facilities for men and the same number for women. Such extra accommodation will allow us to house an overspill from the monastic premises as well as meditators on long retreat. We have planning permission for this and are currently hoping to raise £300,000 to cover the costs. We are, therefore, taking this opportunity to appeal to our supporters, devotees and well-wishers to contribute towards our valuable work.

The four wives of a dying husband



There was a man who had 4 wives, he loved the fourth one very dearly, he would get her the nicest dress. He would get her the nicest jewellery, he would dress her very nicely and entertain with her all the time. She loved him, he loved her.

He also loved the third wife. The third wife was also dear to him, he would give her everything, she was the one who controlled everything in his life.

He also loved the second wife, he was also confident in her, she was the one to whom he would tell all his personal matters, he would always talk to his second wife about life.

His first wife was there, he wasn't too attached to her, she was always there, she was modest, always trying her best to show herself.

One day the man fell ill and he was on his death bed, all of his wives were gathered around him, he said **"Now look, my beautiful wives, I don't want to die alone, who of you will come to me?"**

He called his fourth wife and said **"You are the dearest to my heart, I have always loved you, I have given you the best of all, now the time has come for me to die, will you come with me? would you come with me?"** The wife said **"No"** and turned back and went away. His heart was broken into pieces.

Sadly he called his third wife to the front and said "I am going to die, will you come with me?" to that she said **"No way, the moment you die, I am going with somebody else"** she turned her back and went away.

He called his 2nd wife and asked her the same question, she said **"I am sorry that you are dying, but I can only come up to your cemetery, I will be with you until there"** and turned back to stand in her place.

From behind he heard a voice **"I will come with you"**, he looked at his first wife and felt sad, he said **"My dear I have always neglected you, you look so skinny, now my life has come to an end, I wish I knew you loved me more than anybody when I was healthy. I feel very sad I neglected you all this time"** and died.

In the story, 4th wife represents the body and its craving, which we lose when we die. The 3rd wife represent wealth, which others get after one leaves body. The 2nd wife all the friends and family who can only come up to the grave. The 1st wife represents the soul (or mind), it is always there but unnoticed, the most dearest and important one is ignored and one often realizes it only at the end of life.

Now is the time to strive spiritually, take all the chances you get and benefit. Before the oil of life is completely lost.

[This is a variation of the story from the sermon of Buddha. The essence is still intact. Main difference would be that in this story 1st wife doesn't represent karma or mind that one has to carry with them]

<http://aumamen.com/buddhism>

VIHARA NEWS

Spiritual Director Dr Ottara Nyana

Pagoda News

BBA Assessment Day (14/07/18)

Birmingham Buddhist Academy (BBA) was formally opened and established in 2013. In January 2016, academic board of ITBMU (International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University in Yangon, Myanmar) had granted as an Autonomous branch of ITBMU to Birmingham Buddhist Academy.

On the 14th July 2018, BBA students are assessed by Sayadaw Dr Acinna from Yangon (ITBMU) at Birmingham Buddhist Vihara in UK. Students also offered lunch dana to Sangha and volunteers for Pagoda work.

Assessment day started with a presentation by Dr Ottaranayana (BBA Program Director) explaining stage by stage progress of how BBA became a recognised autonomous branch of ITBMU. Sayadaw Dr Acinna also explained to students the purpose of his assessment visit.

After the introduction, Dr Ottaranyana continued to explain about BBA rules, procedures and progress of both Diploma and MA students.



The assessment day concluded with one to one interview with Sayadaw U Acinna and BBA students. We would like to pass special thanks to Sayadaw Dr Acinna for travelling far to assess BBA students and gave advice for future improvements of BBA.



20th Pagoda Anniversary

Dhammatalaka Peace Pagoda 20th Anniversary and Waso Robe Offering ceremony was celebrated on the 22nd July. Over two hundred supporters attended to the Anniversary and sponsored by Dr Win Myint Aung & Dr Kine Thin Han and family (Wolverhampton) and Ms Ellen Parker, Birmingham. Special thanks to our sponsors.

Gold Robe was offered to Pagoda and built a Concrete Foot Path around the Pagoda. Special Lotus Magazine was also published in celebration of the 20th Anniversary.

In celebration of this remarkable occasion, BBA Diploma certificate of Buddhist Studies and certificates of honour are also awarded to students and individuals who supported the pagoda in many years and continuing.





20th Pagoda Anniversary was completed by offering Requisites to (20) Sangha outside of the pagoda.

Ten days Insight Meditation Retreat

The retreat took place from 17th to 26th August to enable meditators to experience the characteristic of impermanence and nature of non-selfhood as part of the process of insight meditation. Twelve yogies with different age group participated and free vegetarian lunch was offered. Thank you all for your support. During the retreat, Abhidhamma from meditation point of view was taught by Bhante for both theory and practical knowledge.

Abhidhamma & Pavarana (24th October from 6.30 to 8.30pm)

First, our sangha celebrated Pavarana in accordance with Vinaya (Discipline) and then chanting Patthana (Abhidhamma). It is also Lighting ceremony. Finally, Dr Ottaranyana explained significant of this ceremony.

KATHINA ROBE OFFERING CEREMONY



In remembrance of and with respect to our grandparents, parents and teachers, Dr Kyaw Htun Aye and Dr Htet Nwe Win sponsored the

Kathina on Sunday 28th October 2018 at Birmingham Buddhist Vihara for their 10th wedding anniversary. Eight monks and over two hundred of friends attended the Kathina ceremony.

Vihara Maintenance

U Ratthapala is taking care of the Pagoda and vihara.

Alena and her husband Alan look after gold fishes in the pagoda pond and also help with the garden. Dr Mar Mar handles the kitchen.

Volunteers

Ko Kyaw Min Lwin, Theha Chit Nyo and Soe Myint, Ko Suny, Duncan, always lend a helping hand in every ceremony in our vihara. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Wedding

Wedding Blessing Ceremony of Mr Wayne and Ma Thant Thant has been conducted in August by the monks at Birmingham Buddhist Vihara today with the presents of parents, friends and relatives.



On the 2nd Sep, another couple celebrated their wedding Dana at Birmingham Buddhist Vihara.



Ordination

Dr Phyo Nyain Chan ordained at Birmingham Vihara on 15th September.



Dr Ottarana Nyana's Activities

Teaching Metta Sutta and Dhamma Cakka Sutta during August 2018 at Dhammaramsi (Brussels, Belgium) and 30 yogies participated in the Metta retreat happily.

Again in November 2018, Dr Ottara Nyana led ten days Vipassana retreat. Abhidhamma and Satipatthana Sutta were taught from practical point of view during the meditation retreat at Dhammaramsi in Belgium.



Dr Ottara Nyana's Future Activity

Dr Ottara Nyana will be going to Myanmar from 25th Nov to 20th Jan 2019

Dr Nagaseana's Activities

A meditation retreat was conducted by Dr Nagasena in Czech Republic in September and given a talk at Brno University during the visit.

Bhante also went to France for one week during October 2018 mostly for talks and to attend Metri Vihara Kathina ceremony.



Sunday children program was run by Dr Nagaseana at the Birmingham Vihara, focusing on children's cognitive ability, morality, transformation and responsibility for future world.

Job Advert

Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust

The trustees invite applications for a fourth monk to reside at the purpose built monastery in Birmingham. Apart from traditional monastic duties the successful monk will be expected to teach meditation, assist with the numerous school visits to the Pagoda and participate in the teaching of the master's degree and diploma courses that are taught at the Birmingham Buddhist Academy.

Applicants must be fluent in English and Burmese, be a Thera (20 year as a monk), have a Dhamacaryia and a PhD in Buddhist study.

In line with Theravada tradition accommodation and all expenses will be met by the trust as long as the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara is the main residence.

Applications to be sent to The Trustees, Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust, 29 Osler Street, Birmingham B16 9EU UK or email : venuttaranyana@gmail.com.

Pagoda Wish List
Donations are most welcome for
Electric Remote Operated Gate
Microwave

Thank You.

.2563 BE/2019 EVENTS CALENDAR

BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST VIHARA - DHAMMATALAKA PEACE PAGODA- BIRMINGHAM BUDDHIST ACADEMY

FESTIVALS

Buddha Day (Visaka)

Sunday 19 May 10:30am

Dhammacakka Day & Pagoda Anniversary

Sunday, 14 July 10:30am

Abhidhamma & Pavarana Day

Sunday 13 Oct. 7:00pm

Kathina

Sunday, 20th Oct. 10:30am

FULL MOON

Chanting in the Pagoda at 7:30pm except on festival days.

20th Jan, 19th Feb, 20th Mar, 19th Apr, 18th May, 17th June, 16th Jul, 15th Aug, 13th Sep, 13th Oct, 11th Nov, 11th Dec

RETREATS

Easter Retreat

19th April – 22nd April

Led by Dr Ottara Nyana

10-DAY Insight Retreat

16th-25th Aug (experienced)

Led by Dr Ottara Nyana

Designed to enable meditators to experience the characteristic of impermanence and nature of non-selfhood as part of the process of insight meditation.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR RETREAT

SCHOOL VISITS

25th – 31st Dec (suitable for all)

New year patthana chanting every year 6pm – 8pm new year day.

Contact : Dr Nagasana

Email : uk.suriya@gmail.com

SCHOOL VISIT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The number of school visits to the Pagoda is rising year on year and continues to provide students with invaluable experience to hear about the Buddha and his teachings and to meet Buddhist monks. For a school visit please contact:

Contact : Dr Nagasana

Email : buddhistschoolvisit@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY CLASSES

from 1pm - 3pm

Every Sunday except when it falls on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Suitable for 5 + years, but all welcome with or without children.

For further details please contact Ellen on her mobile:

07814 972 460 or email her at:

ellen06_121@yahoo.co.uk

SUMMER COURSE FOR CHILDREN

(7th to 11th Aug.)

Please bring your children to the Vihara to stay here and learn about Buddhism. This five day course will include a Buddhist film as well as enjoyable teachings. Accommodation will be available in our Vihara and we look forward to our children's course. If you want to train your children with novice ordination, you are welcome to book with us during these children days.

For details please contact Dr Nagasana:

uk.suriya@gmail.com

MEDITATION CLASSES

Beginners: Thurs. 7:30pm

Advanced: Mon. 7:30pm

PAGODA OPENING

Summer 9am – 6pm

Winter 9am – 5pm

The Pagoda is open most days but to avoid disappointment **please call or e-mail first** to ensure there will be someone available to welcome you and show you around.

Phone: 0121 454 6591 or

email: venuttaranyana@gmail.com

For school visit contact: uk.suriya@gmail.com

Buddhist Studies Online Course

First year MA course was started in Sep 2018 and second year will commence in Sep 2019. Students are currently studying Abhidhamma, Pali Grammar and Meditation during their first semester taught by Dr Ottara Nyana, Dr Nagasana. For further details please contact:

Dr Ottara Nyana, email:

venuttaranyana@gmail.com