DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING

England & Wales · Charity number 1116187

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2006-09-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	69 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City SG6 1PZ
Phone	07983466105
Email	buddhistacademy@gmail.com
Website	www.buddhistacademy.com

Activities

Objects: A) PROMOTION OF THE BUDDHIST FAITH.B) THE PROMOTION AND PRESERVATION OF GOOD HEALTH.C) THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND SICKNESS.D) TO PROVIDE OR ASSIST IN THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THEIR CONDITION OF LIFE.

Activities: Promotion & preservation of health: Mental health through Mindfulness based Meditation, counselling, psychotherapy & stress managements. Education based on scientific evidence: to alleviate poverty & sickness. Social welfare facilities for recreation or leisure. Buddhism & Cultural activities for young & adult. Sponsoring children & providing emergency help at difficult times to rebuild lives.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Overseas Aid/famine Relief, Accommodation/housing, Religious Activities, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Animals, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS.
- Sri Lanka
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	-	-	-	-
2024-03-31	£170,620	£163,026	-	-
2023-03-31	£112,538	£115,745	-	-
2022-03-31	£101,557	£90,388	-	-
2021-03-31	£63,379	£61,984	-	-
2020-03-31	£92,753	£149,671	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Rev Akurala Samithasiri	Chair	2008-04-05
Emma D'Avilar		2023-05-31
GARY ANTHONY LEWIS BLAND		2006-07-09
John Williams		2012-04-07
Nicola Butler		2012-04-07
Padmalatha Wijeratne		2008-04-05

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DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYC

England & Wales - Charity number 1116187

Accounts

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA

BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st MARCH 2024

Charity Number 1116187

A. Dervish & Co. Ltd
Accountants
496-498 Bearwood Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4HB

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Reference and Administrative information

Charity Name	Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Registered Charity Number	1116187
Principal Address	69 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ
Board of Trustees	Rev Akurala Samithasiri Padmalatha Wijeratne Gary A L Gland John Williams Nicola Butler Emma D'Avilar
Independent Examiner	A. Dervish & Co. Limited Accountants 496-498 Bearwood Road Bearwood Birmingham B66 4HB
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC Leicester LE87 2BB

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees	Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2024	**Charity no**	1116187
Set out on pages	3-5		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

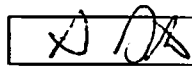
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		**Date:**	23/02/2026
Name:	Ahmet Dervish		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body):	Institute of Financial Accountants		
Address:	496-498 Bearwood Road, Bearwood, Smethwick, B66 4HB		

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31st March 2024

	2024	2023
Income		
Donations	129,447	112,538
HMRC Gift Aid	41,173	
	170,621	112,538
Expenditure		
Monk's expenses	15,149	12,464
Rent and housing costs	34,581	40,749
Light and Heat	3,228	2,957
Rates and water	3,697	4,352
Salaries and wages	12,000	12,000
Repairs and maintenance	10,963	445
Telephone and mobile	1,206	839
Travel and motor	19,021	13,196
Printing postage and stationery	8,532	1,512
Bank loan interest and charges	3,987	255
Sundries	2,717	2,045
IE Fee	1,320	500
Legal fees	2,200	0
Blessings and Sponsorship	11,534	18,839
Events	22,318	4,099
Depreciation	8,204	1,491
HMRC PAYE write off	2,370	0
	163,026	115,749
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	7,594	(3,209)
Total funds brought forward	18,877	22,086
Total funds carried forward	26,471	18,877

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

		2024		2023
Fixed Assets				
Motor vehicle	58,950		33,500	
Accum. Depreciation	(29,028)		(27,538)	
Annual Depreciation	(7,757)	22,165	(1,491)	4,472
Fixtures & Fittings	2,239			
Annual Depreciation	(448)	1,791		
Meditation Hall		24,693		24,693
		48,649		29,165
Current Assets				
Cash at bank		9,251		6,710
Current Liabilities				
Loans	(32,101)		15,900	
Creditors and accruals	672	(31,429)	1,098	(16,998)
Net Assets		26,471		18,877
Funds				
Brought forward		18,877		22,086
Surplus (Loss) from I&E		7,594		(3,209)
		26,471		18,877

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the:

.....23-02-2026.....

These financial statements are approved by:

.....

Reverend Akurala Samithisiri

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2024

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost Convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, and the Charities Act 1993.

The charity has historically prepared accounts on the accruals basis, despite there being no requirement.

Income

Voluntary income is received by way of donations

Motor Vehicles
Motor vehicles are not held in the name of the charity, but are held in the name of Reverend Samithisiri. The vehicle is paid for by the charity on the understanding that it's use is for the charity and should Reverend Samithisiri leave the services of the charity that the vehicle will be returned to the charity. Due to the terms of the provision, the charity elects to show the vehicle as an asset of the charity even though the title is not in the charities name.

Rent and Housing Costs
The charity directly and indirectly pays for the housing and property expenses associated with the provision of Buddhist services to the public and for the accommodation of the monks. Some of these expenses are capital in nature but are not directly owned by the charity and therefore are not listed in the assets of the charity.

Charity Trustees Annual Report 2023

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING

Letchworth
Dhamma Nikethanaya
Buddhist Cultural Centre

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ

Website: www.buddhistacademy.com
Email: buddhistacademy@gmail.com
Telephone: 01462 641 688
Mobile: 07983 466 105

Sunday 07th April 2024

Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre
for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

Charity Trustees Annual Report:

This meeting was held online and at the centre.

On Sunday 07th April 2024

Present Trustees: Reverend Akurala Samithasiri,
Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne,
Mrs Nicola Butler,
Mr Gary Anthony Lewis Bland
Ms Emma D'Avilar &
Mr John Williams

Other Members Present: Mr. Amalka Hewa Naimanage, Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi, Mrs. Nilanthi Gamlath, Mr. Dharshana Jayaratne, Mrs Himali Reid, Mr Glenn Everard, Mrs. Harsha Silva, Mr Udena Wanniarachchi, Mrs. Manel Perera, Mr. Rasika Jayawardana, Mr Ram Murthi Summan, Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva, Mr Dayal Summan, Mrs Vipuli Gunasena, Mr Manohar Summan, Mrs Gayathrie Chandrasekara, and Mr Osandha Weerawansa.

Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thera; head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre attended as the guest monks.

Meeting started with few minutes meditation and religious observations. Reverend Akurala Samithasiri welcomed everyone and chaired the charity annual meeting. A minute silence was observed in tribute to members who passed away.

Miss Padma Wijeratne presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr Gary Bland suggested the minutes as accurate and Mr Udena Wanniarachchi seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri requested to elect the trustees and new office bearers for the **New Year 2024-2025**. Ms Emma D'Avilar suggested Reverend Akurala Samithasiri to re-elect as the trustee and the president. Miss Padma Wijeratne seconded it. Mr Osandha Weerawansa suggested to elect Miss Wijeratne as the secretary and trusee and Mr Mrs Vipuli Gunasena seconded it. Mrs Dharshana Jayaratne suggested to re-elect Mr Gary Bland as the treasurer and the trustee and Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi seconded it. Mr Amalka Hewa Naimanage suggested to elect Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary and the trustee. Mrs. Manel Perera seconded it. Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi suggested Mr John Williams as the trustee and the vice president. Mr Dayal Summan seconded it. Mr Rasika Jayawardana suggested to elect Ms Emma Davilar as the trustee and the assistant treasurer. Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri was elected as the president, Mr John Williams as the vice president, Miss Padma Wijeratne as the secretary, Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary, Mr Gary Bland as the treasurer and Mrs Emma Davilar as the assistant treasurer were elected as new office bearers for the year 2024-2025.

2023-2024 Annual Report: (01-04-2023 & 31-03-2024)

Welcome to the **20th Annual General Meeting** of **Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling** registered charity.

This report will reflect the work carried out by our charity for the year ending **31st March 2024**. We all have been growing with our services over the time and being able to extend our services into many others in the wider community. As in the previous years we have been continuing our services and carrying out our objectives for the benefit of the community in UK and other countries (Only Sri Lanka, Romania and Ireland in this year).

Sri Lankan New Year Festival Celebrated on 14th April 2023

Sri Lankan New Year falls in April. It is a very important cultural event for our community. Members of Sri Lankan origin gather to observe cultural events and blessings. Our centre celebrated Sri Lankan New Year with traditional food and other activities of the festivity. We also held the traditional Oil Anointing Ceremony and children's cultural games on **13th and 14th April 2023**. A large number of member families joined for the annual event and blessings. It goes alone with the Easter holidays. Everyone appreciated this opportunity to experience the culture while living miles away from home country.

Centre Anniversary Day Celebration 19th April 2023

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre started on **19th April 2004**. Therefore 19th April of the year is regarded as the centre anniversary day. This year it marks the **20th Year of the Centre and our organization** and also the **18th year being a registered charity**. To mark this special day of the Centre we held a special pooja, dana offering to remember those who lost their passed away being supporters of the centre. Venerable Monk attended for a special chanting, meditation programme, dhamma talk and pooja on Wednesday **19th April 2023** to appreciate all the help from the community and bless them all in gratitude sharing.

Milton Keynes Vihara Sri Lankan New Year 16th April 2023: Our community joined with Milton Keynes Vihara to celebrate the Sri Lankan New Year.

Vesak Buddha Day Celebration: Special Day Programme with Observing Sil (Higher Precepts), Dhamma Talks, Meditation, Buddha Bodhi Pooja, Chanting and Festival of Vesak Lanterns Day on 14th May 2023

Vesak (May) Full Moon Day is the most important day to Buddhists across the globe as it celebrates the birth, enlightenment and the great passing away of our lord Buddha. **On 14th of May 2023** all the members joined online and onsite for a day programme with observing higher precepts, homage, Meditation, Dhamma talks and chanting protection blessings. A large number of devotees joined onsite **on 14th May 2023** for offering dana and doing a special Bodhi pooja. Children and adults joined singing the devotional songs at the centre and at online programme. The Centre was decorated with typical Vesak lanterns and celebration atmosphere.

Sri Lanka Charity Work: Helping Needy with clothes, food and Temple Construction & Building work.

Sri Lanka Child Sponsorship, Community Welfare Support, Charity Projects: For 2023-2024:

We are very grateful to all our members for supporting the child sponsorship programmes and other welfare activities in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is still going through economic problems and people are facing with sortage of essential items, including medicine, food, fuel, etc. This made the need of extra to help our children. We continued to sponsor financially our children in Sri Lanka. They all have shown outstanding success in their education.

With the support of our centre community, we gave some school uniform to needy children in Sri Lanka for the New Year 2024.

Charity Projects in Sri Lanka for the Financial Year 2023 / 2024:

We shipped food items, baby food, medicine and sanitary items to **Sri Lanka through out our financial year.** Sri Lankans were struggling with economic and health crisis. We are very grateful for our community for stepping into help the needy people in Sri Lanka.

Our devotees supported some of the incomplete temple works in some parts of Sri Lanka. General donations were made to few temples in Sri Lanka. Boxes with clothes, food items and other sanitary facilities were sent from our centre to Sri Lanka.

Building a Shrine for a School: 27th April 2023. Ambalangoda, Kuleegoda Sumana Collage needed a shrine for the children to practice their spiritual observations daily. We donated roof and the tiles for that project worth

of £1000/= (Sri Lankan Rupees 400000/=). Our Sri Lankan Charity co-ordinators **Mrs Anuradha Madaduwage** and others administered the project.

Stupa Building Project Sri Lanka: 17th May 2023. Our devotees supported a building of a Stupa in Trincomale in Sri Lanka and innogarated for Vesak Fulll Moon Poya Day.

Releasing Cows: 10th June 2023: With the help of the charity members, we managed to release three cows from slauter house and give those to three families to look after them and eventually make a living from them. This was done in parell to Vesak Full Moon Poya Day celebration.

Distributing Dry Food Parcels to 150 families on 10th July 2023 in Tissamaharama, Sri Lanka: After the pandemic and economic crisis in Sri Lanka, people were having difficulties. We regularly distribute welfare support. We selected 150 special need families in Tissamaharamaya, Sri Lanka and gave them a month worth dry food parcel each. This was coordinated by Mrs Himali and Mr Lalith Prasanna Kokuhannadige.

Donating a laptop to a child in Sri Lanka: Child in Bandarawela requested us to support with a lapto to help the IT studies. One of our devotees support to make that happen. We handed over the laptop on **26th July 2023**.

Free Uniform to Children at Sadathenna, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka on 04th October 2023: We sent a large amount of clothes for needy children in Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka. With the guidance of Most Venerable Molligoda Mahinda Thero, head monk of Sri Saddharma Nikethanaya we distributed clothes to the children on **04th October 2023**.

Special Chanting Blessings Ceremony and Offerings to monks at Kataragama in Sri Lanka on 28th November 2023. With the guidance of Most Venerable Helle Gnanananda Thero, head monk of Dharma Nikethanaya Sella Kataragama, Sri Lanka.

Day of Meditation and Spiritual Practice held in Ambalangoda Sri Lanka on 26th December 2023. We sponsored a day of Spiritual Practice and Meditation in Ambalangoda in Sri Lanka to support the village community.

Full Sets of School materials were donated to Sri Lankan Children on 13th January 2024. Mr Sasanka Mendis administered the donation distribution.

Cooked Food Sharing Event was held in Ambalangoda on 27th January 2023 for needy families and annimals (street dogs).

A Volunteer from Sri Lanka: Charity Worker from Sri Lanka arrived on 31st January 2024 to serve the community in UK and help with centre projects for two years. Mr Sasanka Mendis will stay at the centre till 26th January 2026.

Other Volunteers From Sri Lanka: Few our Sri Lankan volunteers in Sri Lankan charity came do some studies in UK. They also continued to support the UK Charity work voluntarily.

Annual Dana (Offering food) for Monks were held in Akurala on 02nd March 2024. In memory of departed parents, food and necessities were offered to temples in Akurala. Food parcels were also offered to needy as well.

Balapitiya Hospital Children Ward: We donated a book shelf for the children ward with some books and toyes for new born babies and maternity environments on **30th March 2024**.

Children's Home Balapitiya: Giving a meal on 30th March 2024: Special meal was provided to all the children at Balapitiya Children Home with the help of our members.

Special Programmes in Other Countries:

Our member Mr Brixcious Anthony visited Romania and did some spiritual activities for the community there. We have a growing community in Romania.

Ireland Dhamma Tour on 06th , 07th and 08th December 2023: Venerale Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero visited Ireland to do few sessions. Mr Mihira and Mrs Madhavi De Silva sponsored this whole programme. Mr Dhanushka and Mr Ruwan in Galway arranged few sessions in there as well. Mr Mihira and Mrs Madhavi arranged few sessions in Cork.

Poson Full Moon Poya Day Programme on 04th June 2023

Buddhists observe the full Moon Poya Day every month as a significant day for practice (*sabbath*). Even though every full moon poya day is important, some of them are highly significant due to historical reasons. **Poson Full Moon Poya Day** is the second such significant Full Moon Poya Day for particularly Sri Lankan Buddhists as on that day the Buddhism was introduced to **Sri Lanka in 236 BC** (Before Christ) and another seven countries from India.

We had a day programme on **04th June 2023** to observe Poson Full Moon Poya Day with observing Ata (eight) sil (precepts), meditation, Buddha pooja, Bodhi pooja and dhamma discussions.

Milton Keynes Vihara celebrated Poson with a replica of Mihintalaya Rock, Bhakthi (devotional) songs and free food stall on **10th June 2023**. And also Sil Programme on **10th June 2023**.

Every Saturday Evening From 6PM till 8PM Dhamma Dana, Bodhi Pooja, Meditation & Protection Blessings Chanting Programme: Online and Onsite:

Every Saturday we host a special Programme to share the teachings, blessings and also provide few minutes meditation. Good number of devotees regularly joined these programmes from home, online and onsite at the Buddhist Centre. This Saturday Evening Dhamma Dana Sermons, Bodhi Pooja, Blessings Chanting, Meditation programmes were held in the evening from 6PM till 8PM. The programme was included a **Dhamma Talk in Sinhala, Dhamma Talk in English, Bodhi Pooja Homage, Meditation and Protection Blessings**

Chanting. Venerable Monks offered the Dhamma Talks in Sinhala and English on very interesting and highly educational topics. Families who were interested sharing Dhamma and the devotees sponsored generously the dhamma dana (sharing the gift of lord Buddha's teachings).

After the pandemic we continued to host our programmes onsite as well as online. Regular Saturday evening programmes have been very useful most of the time. As a result we continued most of the weeks both online and onsite. Many people joined online temple when programmes and regular services take place. Monks at the centre dedicated for those programmes and worked tirelessly to meet all the requirements. It was very challenging but it was really supportive for the community.

On 18th November 2023: Dr Karunamuni Chaminda Prasad Silva, Mrs Chamila Samarakoon, Son Thisen Mindinu Silva, Daughter Pamara Anusadi Silva and Mrs Thilaka Padmini Silva and family sponsored special pooja and special sermon on Cūḷa Puṇṇama Sutta that explains how indentify correctly true individual (sappurisa) and false (asappurisa) people to liberate from suffering. A large number of people joined online too.

Children Programmes and Dhamma School: Every Saturday 3.30PM till 5PM

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya organized a regular programme for children on every Saturday 3.30-5PM. **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Mr Rasika Jayawardana** and **Mrs Veena Hettiarachchi** administered the teachings. All parents actively participated to support to upkeep of the programme. Children learnt meditation, homage chanting, Buddhism and general ethics.

Monks also attended Milton Keynes Vihara Dhamma School on regular Sunday evening practice sessions for childrena and addults.

Bracknell Dhamma School: Venerable monks regularly attend the Dhamma School in Bracknell and paretns and teachers do the Dhamma School regularly on Every Saturday.

Daham Sisila Programmes on Every Sunday From 5PM till 6.30PM:

Milton Keynes Vihara Community organized a series of regular Dhamma Programme on Every Sunday especially to help the people (young and adults) to come together to listen to the teachings of the Buddha and engage in a discussion. This became a very popular programme due to the engagement of the community. A large number of participants were actively attended. Our monks shared the time, effort and teachings to contribute into this and up keep of the programme. A Guest Monk from Sri Lanka Most V**enerable Kagama Sirinanda Thero**, head monk of Galkiriyagama Siri Samadhi Buddhist Centre attended as guest speaker on **20th August 2023** and **Most Venerable Delgoda Gnanasumana Thero, Head Monk of Gnanagaveshi Meditation Centre, Kadawatha, Gonahena Sri Lanka** attended as guest speaker on **10th October 2023**. Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara, **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** gave a Dhamma Talk on **25th February 2024** in memory of Dr Ajith De Silva. Rest the programmes were conducted by **Venerable Akurala Samitha and resident monks**.

Annual Three Months Rains Retreat Opening Ceremony and Esala Full Moon Poya Day Programme - Saturday 29th July 2023

Venerable monks at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre hosted a blissful ceremony to observe the significances of Esala (July) Full Moon Poya and mark the beginning of the Annual Vassana Season on **Esala (July) Full Moon Poya Saturday 29th July 2023**. Vassana Season is known as **Annual Rains Meditation Retreat** that Theravada Monks should practice once a year for three months on Esala Full Moon Poya Day. Venerable Monks of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre observed the beginning of **annual rains three months retreat** on **Sunday 29th July 2023** respecting the advice of the Lord Buddha and in compliance with the 2600 years old tradition. Whole day programme was held onsite and online with chanting, meditation, dhamma talk and observing eight precepts. A large number of devotees joined both at vihara onsite and online. This year three months Rains Retreat (Vassana) Season was between **29th July 2023** and **11th November 2023**. During those three months, every Saturday for 12 weeks a special programme was held to share the teachings and blessings.

This year three months retreat and kathina ceremony was sponsored by **Mr Dharshana, Mrs Harshani Weerasinghe, Daughter Stesha & Son Shennon and Family.** This is the **20th consecutive year Rainy Retreat** of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero observed the the three months rains retreat in this year 2023.

On that day Most Venerable Monks Chanted the First Discourse delivered By the Blessed One (The Buddha), Dhamma Chakkhapavattana Sutta together with a special blessings pooja and gave Dhamma Talks both in Sinhala & English explaining the significances of the Esala Full Moon Poya Day and Vas Aradhana (Invitation to Three Months Retreat).

Milton Keynes Vihara Esala (July) Full Moon Poya and Vas Aradhana Ceremony took

place on **Sunday 30th July 2023**. Mr. Rasanga & Mrs Anjali Amarasena and family, Mr Danushka & Mrs Nilochani Thrikawala and family, Mr Asiri & Mrs Himalka Jayawickrema and family, Mr Kapila & Mrs chathurika Warnakulasooriya and family and Mr Srilak and Mrs Nadee Wickramarathna and family were the main sponsors of this year Three Months Rains Retreat at Milton Keynes Vihara.

Volunteers at the Centre: Deep Clean Project of Temple Sunday 24th & 25th June 2023.

Volunteers are always very helpful at the centre. They engage in many activities with the guidance of **Miss Padma**

Wijeratne who coordinates the projects. Volunteers joined for deep clean project at the centre on **Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th June 2023**. We all at the centre greatly appreciated their contributions with lots of blessings.

Venerable Akurala Samitha appreciated the work of all, particularly **Mr Glenn Everad** and **Mr Sasanka Mendis**.

Centre Improvement Building Work at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre:

On **17th June 2023:** Bath room taps were replaced and improve the condition of toilets.

ON **24th July 2023:** whole stair case and upstair bedroom were recarpeted.

On **21st March 2024:** Conservatory roof was retached.

Special Atavisi Sambuddha Pooja, Held on Binara Full Moon Saturday 30th September 2023

A **Special Atavisi Sambuddha Pooja** was held to mark the **Binara Full Moon Poya Day** on **Saturday 30th September 2023** at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre. This Special Pooja was sponsored by the main sponsors of this year kathina ceremony and the devotees of the centre. A large number of devotees attended the ceremony online and onsite.

Binara Full Moon Poya Day Special Programme: was held on **Saturday 23rd September 2023** at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Vihara with meditation, dhamma talk and dana. Day was sponsored by Mr Nishandra Dissanayaka and Mrs Nisansala Dharmadasa and family.

House Blessings with Kathina Robe:

It is customary to take the Kathina Robe to carefully selected houses for special religious blessings. It was held at **Mrs Ivanthi Marasinghe & Mr Nilanka Rankothgedara's** house in London **on 01st October 2023.**

Mr Sanjaya Rajapaksha and Mrs Kumari Gunathilaka and family hosted the Kathina Robe on **08th October 2023** and allowed the community in Hatfield to participate to it.

Mrs Dayani Jazn and family hosted a special blessings programme at their residence during the Vassana Season with the participation of large number of devotees on **Saturday 14th October 2023**.

Mr Des Raj & Mrs Pushpa Chauhan, Mrs Suresha & Mr Chaminda Ranaweera Vitharana, Mrs Nilanthi, Mr Amalka Hewa Naimanage, Mr Manohar Summan and few others also hosted a Kathina Robe receiving house ceremonies during the vassana season on **Saturday 21st October 2023**.

Mr Sujeewa and Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge and family also hosted a special pooja by having the Kathina Robe to their house inviting all the community to receiving the blessings of the Kathina Retreat on **Saturday 28th October 2023**.

Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe hosted a special pooja by having the Kathia Robe at home with the participation of friends and community in Northampton on **Saturday 04th November 2023**.

Miss Chamari Jayasinghe and family in London hosted a special blessings ceremony by hosting the Kathina robe with the participation of their friends and family on **08th November 2023**.

Other Special Poojas During the Vassana (Rains Retreat Season):

Luton & Dunstable Community hosted special religious ceremony to get the community together. Our centre members live in Luton, Dunstable, Bedford, Aylesbury, Peterborough, London, Cambridge, Milton Keynes, Bracknell, Oxford, Didcot and Newbury area. **Mr Anuruddha Dissanayake & Mrs Poorna Vithanage and family** organized a Dhamma Programme on **13th August 2023** and **Mr Isuru**

Siriwardana organized a community programme **on 27th August 2023**. Few other special dhamma programmes were also held. A large number of local devotees attended.

Mrs Shilani Porage and Mr Pradeep organised a programme on **17th August 2023 and 03rd September 2023. Mr Amalka and Mrs Nilanthi Gamlath** organized a blessings programme with the participation of our members in the areas of Oxford, Didcot and Newbury on **17th September 2023**.

Mrs Ruwanthi Katuwawala and family hosted a blessing programme at their home with the community and friends in Bedford on **23rd September 2023**.

Nikini (August) Full Poya Day Programme was held on **Saturday 26th August 2023**. Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero delivered a dhamma talk and Most Venerable Akurala Samitha thero conducted the meditation programme. The day programme was sponsored by **Mr Harsha Deepal** and **Mrs Sujani Rathnayaka** and family. Evening pooja was sponsored by **Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi** and family.

Mother's Day Pooja: 10th March 2024: A special pooja and blessings chanting was held on **Mother's Day 10th March 2024** at the centre. It was a good relief for those who live miles away from their parents. Many found the joy by bringing their parents to the centre. This pooja, special chanting and tribute brought healing to many hearts.

Mr Chaminda Liyanage and Mrs Anuja Perera and family and friends sponsored the evening programme in loving memory of their beloved parents.

<u>The Annual Kathina Ceremony: 20th Consecutive Year (Sangha Day Community Event) Celebration held on Saturday 11th November 2023:</u>

The Annual Kathina Ceremony is the biggest community event at the centre. It was held on **Saturday 11th November 2023** at **Free Church Hall** in **Letchworth Garden City**. This was the **20th consecutive Kathina Ceremony** or community day (Sangha Day) Celebration held by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Community with the able guidance of Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero, head of the centre.

This year Kathina Ceremony was mainly sponsored by **Mr Dharshana, Mrs Harshani Weerasinghe, Daughter Stesha & Son Shennon Family, Mr Sithanga Vithanage and Mrs Prashadi Family, Mr Thushan Sampath and Mrs Inoka Sandamali Family. And All the Devotees of the Buddhist Meditation Centre.** A large gathering of over 16 Venerable Monks representing Buddhist Temples in UK graced the ceremony. Over **300**

(three hundred) devotees representing cosmopolitan member families of the centre attended.

The Kathina Ceremony is the highly meritorious and significantly blissful festival in the Buddhist tradition. This Community Day Ceremony was held with the full participation of the community to mark the successful completion of the annual three months spiritual retreat observed by venerable monks residing at the monastery. During this period of three months, the members of the community took special attention to devote more time and effort to practice Lord Buddha's teaching as in Meditation, Dhamma studies, Dana Offering, Sila (Morality) Observations and blessings with Pooja chantings. Hence this three-month period was regarded as the highly blessed and most sacred spiritual season of the community.

In accordance with the 26 centuries old unrestricted Buddhist traditional lineage, Venerable Monks headed by **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha**, Head of the Centre and **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** observed this year's Three-Month Rainy Retreat on **Esala Full Moon Day** that fell on **Saturday 29th July (Esala) 2023** and successfully completed the three months on **Vap Full Moon Day** Which fell on **Saturday 28th October 2023**. Kathina Ceremony has to be held within the month from the completed full moon day to the subsequent full moon, that means before the next Full Moon Day that falls on **Sunday 26th November 2023**. After this day this Ceremony cannot be held according to the Buddhist tradition.

This year **Kathina Ceremony of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya** brought many multi cultural people together as one family. Everyone inspired the happy, peaceful and uplifting atmosphere of the ceremony. The local community admired the rare experience of attractively pious cultural activities related to the ceremony such as Kathina Procession. Children of the Dhamma School put lots of effort with overwhelming enthusiasm in participation. It was a very educational and joyful opportunity for them to experience the typical Buddhist Culture.

The Kathina Procession was beautiful as it was led by the children of the dhamma school, with traditional drumming heralding a Special Statue of Lord Buddha and the Kathina Robe. Children, parents and members of the Buddhist Centre community joined carrying Buddhist flags and decorative items.

The venerable monks who were attended **Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Thero** (London Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Nayaka Maha Thero** (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Buddhist Vihara and Chief Prelate of Judiciary in UK), **Most Venerable Kamburawala Sri Rewatha Nayaka Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Scotland Buddhist Vihara and Chief Prelate of UK), **Most Venerable Gunnapane Sumanarama Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Centre),

Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Maha Thero (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero** (Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon), **Most Venerable Galtamwatta Punnananda Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Dematamal Vihara, Buttala Sri Lanka), **Most Venerable Bowala Rakkhitha Maha Thero** (From USA), **Most Venerable Nagala Upananda Maha Thero** (London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Delgoda Gnanasumana Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Gnanagaveshi Meditation Centre, Gonahena, Kadawatha, Sri Lanka.), **Most Venerable Galayaye Dhammadassi Maha Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Kingsbury Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Munwatte Mangala Maha Thero** (Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon) & **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Maha Thero** (Principal of Sri Rathanasara Pirivena College and resident monk of Dutugemunu Vihara Baddegama Galle).

Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Maha Thero administered the five precepts to mark the beginning of the ceremony. **Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero** conducted the Sath Budu Vandanava and Buddha Pooja. **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Nayaka Maha Thero** conducted the Kathina Dana and Kapruka (wish fulfilling tree). **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Maha Thero** conducted Kathina Robe offering. **Most Venerable Kamburawala Sri Rewatha Nayaka Maha Thero** delivered a Dhamma Talk in English explaining the significances of the traditional spiritual ceremony to the modern world and highlighted the credentials of Venerable Akurala Samitha as a rare skilful monk from whom the community can be benefited immensely with his skills in Psychotherapy and Counselling. The Sinhala Dhamma Sermon was given by **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Maha Thero** explaining the significances of the day and commended the importance of mental health services rendered by Venerable Akurala Samitha and Dhamma Nikethanaya Centre. **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Maha Thero** conducted the punnanumodana (sharing of merits) and special appreciations were given to Miss Padma Wijeratne and shared merits with her parents and blessing with her family for her dedication for the Dhamma School and upkeep of the centre.

Master Nisaja Dissanayaka and the children of Dhamma School sang beautifully songs that brought extra delight to the ceremony with their skills and talents.

Venerable Akurala Samitha thanked everyone who supported to make this year ceremony a great success. The Ceremony arrangements and temple decorations were not possible without the earnest support of **Padma Wijeratne, Glenn, Emma, Aloka, Chaminda, Suresha, Dishna, Sithanga, Sadun, Rasika, Wipuli, Indika, Chamari, Nadee, Sunethra, Godfry, Dharshana, Harsha and Asoka.** Venerable Akurala Samitha especially thanked Miss Padma Wijeratna for her selfless dedication and giving access to anyone come to meet their needs around the clock and also shared heartfelt gratitude and blessings with all those who supported to many ways.

Venerable Akurala Samitha shared the blessings with those who offered Atapirikara, Robes, Monks' gift items and other donations. Their support greatly counted for the blessings for wellbeing and for the success of the ceremony.

Special thanks were invoked upon By the Head Monks Most Venerable Akurala Samitha to **Hertfordshire Police Safer Neighbourhood Team** Letchworth and Boldock **Sgt Lisa Perks and Inspector James Lant** and all **the officers** who gave enormous courage and support to make the Kathina Procession proceed through town making blessings to the community.

May the Blessings of this greatest meritorious deed fulfil, without exception the aspirations of all, and lead to the everlasting happiness *Nibbana*! May all be secure, well and happy with Noble Blessings of the Triple Gem!

Annual Kathina Ceremonies at Other Temples in UK:

Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Saturday 28th October 2023** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

London Kingsbury Temple hosted their **Annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 29th October 2023** and Venerable Akurala Samitha attended representing the centre.

Stroke-On-Trent Buddhist Vihara Kathina Ceremony was held on **Saturday 04th November 2023**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended the ceremony.

London Buddhist Vihara Chiswick hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 05th November 2023** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it. Venerable Akurala Samitha did a guided meditation for the community.

East London Lumbini Vihara hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 12th November 2023** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

Leicester Dharmasoka Vihara Annual Kathina Ceremony was held on **Sunday 18th November 2023**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended the ceremony.

Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 19th November 2023** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and

Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it. Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk on significances of Kathina.

Cambridge Buddhist Vihara hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Saturday 25th November 2023**. Venerable Aurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended. Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk.

London Mindfulness Meditation Centre hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Saturday 25th November 2023.** Venerable Aurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended. Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk.

Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 26th November 2023** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

Milton Keynes Vihara Annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 29th October 2023:

Under the patronage of **Venerable Akurala Samitha, Milton Keynes Vihara Community** celebrated their **annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 29th October 2023**. This was their **05th consecutive ceremony held** at **Summerlin Centre**, Woburn Sands. Over 300 (three hundred) devotees attended the ceremony. 16 (Sixteen) most venerable monks representing all the temples in the United Kingdom attended to grace the ceremony. **Mr Rasanga & Mrs Anjali Amarasena and Family, Mr Danushka & Mrs Nilochani Thrikawala and Family., Mr Asiri & Mrs Himalka Jayawickrema and Family., Mr Kapila & Mrs Chathurika Warnakulasooriya and Family., Mr Srilak & Mrs Nadee Wicramarathna and Family and All Devotees of the Vihara** sponsored the Annual Kathina Pinkama with the advice of Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Maha Thero, (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Maha Thero**, (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Nayaka Thero**, (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Buddhist Vihara and Chief Prelate of Judiciary in UK), **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Maha Thero**, (Head Monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero**, (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero**, (Head Monk of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre and Milton Keynes Vihara), **Most Venerable Nepole Sumana Maha Thero**, (Head Monk of Hendon Vipassana Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero**, (Principal of Sri Rathanasara Pirivena College and resident monk of Dutugemunu Vihara Baddegama Galle) **Most**

Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Maha Thero, (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero**, (Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara), **Venerable Sukhithamano Thero**, (resident monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Burmese Sumangalo Maha Thero**, (Head Monk of Sunderland Buddhist Centre), **Venerable Hanwelle Gnanarathana Thero**, (resident monks at East London Lumbini Buddhist Vihara), **Venerable Polgahawela Subhavitha Thero**, (resident monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara), **Venerable Kirigalwewe Chandarathana Thero**, (resident monk of East London Lumbini Buddhist Vihara), and **Venerable Sister Marutha** (Matha Anju San, Head of Milton Keynes Nipponaan – Myōhōji Japanese Peace Pagoda) were attended the ceremony.

On behalf of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre, **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** and **Miss Yvonne Hall** attended the ceremony and helped to make it a great success.

Visiting Monks & Resident Monks: Most Venerale Dammala Piyananda Thero 07th March 2021 till 13th January 2024:

Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero arrived to our centre on **07th March 2021** and stayed as the resident monk till 13th January 2024 at the centre **with Most Venerable Akurala Samitha** during this year. He finshed his two year term and went back to Sri Lanka.

Celebrating Members' Special Moments:

Mrs Roslin Pathirage celebrated her **80th Birthday Sunday 23rd April 2023** with the monks. Family organized a special blessings ceremony. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended.

Mr Dharshana Jayarathna celebrated his **51st Birthday on 27th May 2023** with the family and monks. They offered dana to venerable monks.

Most Venerable Kosgoda Siriwimala Nayaka Thero celebrated his **60th Birthday and 52nd** **monkhood higher ordination anniversary** on **22nd June 2023**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and centre members sent special donation for the blessings ceremony.

Miss Esther Reid celebrated her **14th Birthday on 17th August 2023**. Monks attended the house Dana.

Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe celebrated her **89 birthday on 13th October 2023**. Special blessings programme was held at her house.

Late Mrs Rathnawalie Dep Birthday Celebration on 30th December 2023: Members of the centre organized a special blessing ceremony and pooja with the participation of Late Mrs Rathnawalie Dep's family to commorate her life on her **birthday 30th December 2023**.

Miss Chanudhi Adhikari celebrated her birthday on **09th January 2024** with the monks and our community.

Mrs Chandrika Dasanayaka celebrated her birthday on **24th January 2024** with a special pooja and the participation of our community.

Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero's Birthday on 24th January 2024: **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** is the head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre. He helps our spiritual and social activities a lot. Venerable Monks at the centre and the community are very grateful of his contributions. We remembered him on his birthday **24th January 2024** by doing a special pooja and invoke the blessings to him.

Mr Glenn Everard celebrated his 53rd Birthday on 25th January 2024: Mr Glenn Everard was a long standing dedicated member of the centre. He celebrated his very **special 53rd Birthday** in the centre. Centre community organized a special pooja to invoke blessings to him on his 53rd birthday on **25th January 2024**.

Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne celebrated her 61st Birthday on 25th January 2024: Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne has been a long standing member and also holds responsible positions like trustee and secretary at the centre. She contributed her time, effort and financial support for the temple extensively. Everyone at the centre is extremely grateful for her dedication to upkeep the centre. Resident Monks and the community organized **a special blessings pooja chanting online on 24th January 2024** to invoke blessings to **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne**. Dana ceremony was held at her resident **on 25th January 2024** with the participation of **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara) and **Most Venerable U Sumangala** (Resident Monk of New Castle) and **Most Venerable Akurala Samithas Thero**. A Special Pooja was held on **27th January 2024** with a large number of members of the centre joined online and at house for the evening pooja.

Miss Methushi Wijewardhana Celebrated her birthday on **26th January 2024**. **Mrs Nilanka Hettiarachchi** and **Mr Sameera Wijewardhana** hosted an annual ceremony on their daughter's birthday to do the blessings with the local community in Prexton and also to do the house blessings. They also shared the merits with **Mrs Piyaseeli Pagoda Arachchi** and **Mr Lional Gamini Wijewardhane** on **25th February 2024**.

Mrs Rukmani Shillam celebrated her 92nd Birthday on 30th January 2024: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thero attended. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted a meditation and gave talk.

Dr Thura Limbin celebrated his birthday on 20th February 2024: He is long standing member at the centre. He conducts teaching meditation and Buddhism sessions at the centre. Our community is very grateful for his contributions.

Mrs Niranjala Perera celebrated her 81st Birthday with special dhamma dana Saturday Evening programme on 02nd March **2024**.

Mr Brixcious Anthony Hettiarachchi celebrated his 53rd Birthday on 12th March 2024. He is one of the main and dedicated supporters of the centre. A special pooja was held with the friends and family on 12th March 2024 at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre.

Mrs Brigitta Monore celebrated her Birthday on 17th March 2024. A special pooja was held at the centre and appreciated her support to the centre.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's 52nd Birthday - 25th March 2024: Centre community took the privilege to pay tribute to the outstanding work of **Venerable Akurala Samitha on his 52nd birthday** by organizing **a special dana** (food offering to monks) **ceremony** and **guest speakers talks and Bodhi pooja blessings** on **24th March 2024**. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** organized the event. A large gathering of Children of the Dhamma School gave tribute presentations. A few Members of the community gave tribute presentations on behalf of all the members of the meditation community and temple members.

Mrs Brigitta Monore came to attend from Hungary. **Mr. Godfry**, **Mr Sasanka Mendis, Mr Dharshan Jayaratne, Mrs Sunethra De Silva**, **Mrs Nikki Butler**, **Mrs Emma Davilar**, **Mrs Alicija Rathnayaka, Mrs Nadika Athuraliya**, also helped the programme and the ceremony. A large number of over 300 devotees joined the special blessings.

Mrs Anuradha Madhadhuwage and members in Sri Lanka also made a special food parcel distribution to needy families in Sri Lankal to bless Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Chaplaincy Team: We have a team of chapains at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. They are both monks and lay members. Miss Padma Wijeratne administers them. **Mr Sasanka Mendis, Mrs Dilini Kehelkotuwa** and **Mrs Gayathri Weerawansa** also coordinate the projects. They regularly attend hospitals, schools, hospices and other community organizations to help with their spiritual and meditation needs.

Interfaith Activities by the Centre and NHS Services:

Our centre has been actively participating local and national interfaith groups and make necessary contributions to be part of the interfaith relations. Venerable Akurala Samitha continues to be dedicated member of North Herts Interfaith Forum and Hertfordshire Faith Leaders Forum.

Venerable Akurala Samitha and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne and other chaplains** regularly attend **East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust Lister Hospital**, **QE II Hospital in Welwyn Garden City**, and **Mount Vernon Cancer Hospital in London Northwood** as a part of chaplain team. Venerable Akurala Samitha attends monthly meetings and hosts a weekly meditation sessions in addition to visiting the patients for blessings.

Baby Funeral Service Harwood Park on 26th April 2023: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended an interfaith religious service done Lister Hospital Chaplaincy team to remember the babies lost during the last 12 months.

Felicitation to Imam Rizwan Rawat on 23rd August 2023: Lister Hospital Chaplaincy Team held a special felicitation to appreciate the work done by Imam Rizwan to the interfaith activies. He was leaving the team and we all paid our gratitude. Meeting was held at Lartista at Letchworth Garden City. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the occation.

Annual Baby Memorial Event was held on Sunday 15th October 2023 at Hitchin Town Hall, Brand Street. This was organized with East and North Herts Trust Spiritual and Pastoral Care Team and North Herts Sands. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the event and offered a service.

Remembrance Day Interfaith Prayers: 11th November 2023

All faith groups joined for a service at Lister Hospital to observe a minutes silence with all the members of the public to remember the war victims and Heros. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne joined on behalf of the centre and offered prayers from Buddhist Tradition.

Spirituality and Distress USA Webbina on 21st November 2023: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Padmalatha Wijeratna joined the webina organized by the national interfaith groups in UK.

Interfaith Week Celebration on 19th November 2023: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratna attended a special event of interfaith members to celebrate the interfaith week. This was held at Lister Hospital Chapel on 19th November 2023.

Lister Hospital Christmas Carols on 13th December 2023: A special carol and devotional songs session was held at Lister Hospital. A large number of staff of the hospital attended. Miss Padmalatha Wijeratna attended the singing.

Stevenage Mayor's Civic Service 2024 held at Council Chamber at Stevenage Borough Council on 03rd March 2024: Mayor's Civic Service 2024 led by Fr Michael Doherty, Parish Priest, with the theme on Faith, Intergration and Togetherness for the community. It was the newly appointed Mayor's wishes to celebrate our diversity and harmony. There were reflections by the Mayor Cllr Myla Arceno, Mary Porter (Humanist Chaplain at the East & North Herts NHS Trust, Lister Hospital Stevenage), Council Leader Richard Henry, an Imam from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK, and Bhante Akurala Samitha (Buddhist Monk at the Trust) and Miss Padma Wijeratne (Honarary Buddhist Chaplain). Pupils from the Marriotts School Choir gave a performance. Miss Padmalatha Wijeratna also did a guided meditation. The event was supported by many neighbouring Mayors and Chairs, and both the Labour and the Conservative Prospective Parliament Candidates.

Inter-faith meeting and prayers by the chaplaincy group at Lister Hospital on 13th December 2023

Miss Padma Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha have been attending various kinds of interfaith activities locally and nationally. They host weekly meditation programmes and support important occations with Buddhist blessings, meditation and chanting. Final meeting for 2023 was held at Lister Hospital Chapel to review the work and plan for the future.

Home Visits, Nursing Home Visits and Hospital Visits By the Centre:

Home visits, Hospital Visits and Nursing Home Visits are a very active part of the centre. Venerable Monks and lay chaplains do the regular visits to homes, nursing homes and hospital for spiritual and cultural needs. This is something they really appreciate. Few of those visits are included below.

Ms Mary Barr Stewart Moncaster was 93 years old good friend of the centre. She was at

Osbourne Court Care Home end of life situation. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratna visited her regularly and supported her spiritually and emotionally. **On 20th June 2023** Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratna did a special blessing at the care home.

Mrs Ramya Wijewardana and Mr Darshana Mohandiramge and family hosted a blessings

chanting ceremony to mark the end of year and invited the devotees in Watford area **on 31st December 2023.** Monks attended the evening chanting blessings Ceremony.

Mr Harshaka Kanangara and Mrs Madhu Jayathilaka organized a dhamma talk session

in London on 17th May 2023: This was held at Kingsbury Temple in London. They invited all friends and families in London area for this session. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and gave a Dhamma Talk.

Dhamma and Meditation Session at Stoke On Trent on 10th June 2023: Mr Rathnasiri

and Mrs Nadeera Kariyawasam organized a special Dhamma talk and Meditation session for the benefit of community in Stoke on Trent. Over 150 people participated. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the session.

Special Programme in Chesham on 04th November 2023: Mr Vishal Dhoke and Mrs Shruti

Kamble organized a special blessings programme with a Dhamma Talk at their residence with the participation of large number of Indian communities. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Dammala Piyananda Thero attended and conducted the session.

Special Programme in London Southgate on 17th December 2023: Dr Tamara Wijeweera

and Mr Gunawardana organized a special session with a Dhamma Talk and Q&A session at their residence to benefit for the young children. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda conducted the programme.

A Special Programme was held by **Mrs Niranjala Dissanayaka** on **07th February 2024** at

her house in Braintree in Essex with the participation of family and friends. Venerable Akurala Samitha and resident monks attended and delivered a dhamma talk.

07th Day Dana in Memory of **Mother Mrs Reslin Pathirage** was done by Mr Lasantha on **11th March 2024** at Milton Keynes Vihara.

On 18th February 2024: Mrs Cheryl Green: Venerable Akurala Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratna and Mr Sasanka Mendis visited Mrs Cheryl Green's house to appreciate her contribution to the charity by being a long standing friend of Sri Lanka, member of the centre and also hosting the meditation sessins in Bedford.

Year End Blessings: Christmas Blessings programme on 24th December

2023: We hosted an online and onsite blessings and meditation programme to share spiritual blessings on Christmas. A good number of people joined the online as well as at the centre session. Dr Mallika Samaraweera, Mrs Dilini Kuruppu and Miss Padma Wijeratne sponsored the evening pooja.

Special programme in Luton & Dustable on 28th December 2023: Mrs Menaka Karunarathna and Mr Sanjaya Jayasinghe organized a special blessings programme with the participation of interested communities in Luton and Dunstable. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the session with the other monks of the centre.

Mr Sanjaya and Mrs Madhu hosted their annual dhamma and dana programme at their residence at **Hatfield** on **06th January 2024**. Large number of friends and members of the community participated the programme. Seven monks attended.

Mrs Niranjala Perera hosted a special Dhamma programme with dana and blessings on **26th** **February 2023** at **Kingsbury Temple**. Large number of devotees attended.

Master Chetha Vimath at Milton Keynes Hospital on 05th March 2024: Venerable Akurala Samitha visited Master Chetha as he had an injury while doing his sports and underwent an operation. Venerable Akurala Samitha did some blessings at hospital and also visited home when he was discharged. As he was preparing for the GCSE, it was a big relief to him and his family.

2024 Happy New Year Blessings: A Special Atavisi Buddha Pooja to welcome the New Year was held on 1st January 2024

The Community of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya organised Atavisi Buddha Pooja Special Blessings ceremony on **Monday 01st January 2024** to share the blessings with all on the dawn of the **New Year 2024**. All members and devotees attended both online and onsite.

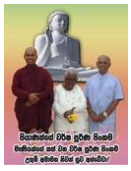
The blessings programmes were sponsored by all the members. Special sponsorships were extended by **Mr Ninantha Muthukumarana, Mrs Jeevanthi, Mr Nilanka Hapugoda, Mrs Lakshika Weerakkodi, Mr Nishendra Dissanayaka, Miss Padma Wijeratne and Mr Prasad Jayasinghe.** A large number of devotees gathered at the centre to **start the New Year 2024 with Blessings**. A large number of devotees joined the **evening Atavisi Buddha Pooja**. This programme was sponsored mainly by devotees from Letchworth, Milton Keynes and Bracknell communities. **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** conducted the New Year Day Blessings on pooja.

Milton Keynes New Year Celebration Blessings on 01st January 2024: A large number of people attended the special blessings programme to welcome the New Year in Milton Keynes. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero conducted the blessings ceremony.

Bracknell New Year Day Celebration 01st January 2024: Community in Bracknell gathered at Bullbrook Community centre to get the blessings for New Year. Samitha Sri Dhamma School also organized annual price giving for the students who did their exams. Large number of devotees in Bracknell joined the session. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended to do the session.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's Father's (05-05-1929 | 27-01-2022) Second Death Anniversary was on 27th January 2024: Venerable Akurala Samitha's Mother's (20-02-1936 | 02-03-2016) 08th Year Death Anniversary was on 02nd March 2024

Special Dana ceremony was held in Sri Lanka to mark the **2nd Year of passing** of the beloved father of Venerable Akurala Samitha on **27th January 2024**. **Venerable Akurala Samitha's mother's 08th Year Remembrance** also held on **02nd March 2024**. Food and other necessities were donated to local temples and 50 dry food parcels were distributed in the village in Akurala. Venerable Akurala Samitha also held a remembrance ceremony in **the United Kingdom at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya** on **27th January 2024** and **02nd March 2024** to transfer merits to parents.



27th January 2024 and 02nd March 2024, A special Dana Ceremony and chanting was held in **Sri Lanka and UK** in memory of parents of Venerable Akurala Samitha to mark the **02nd Year Remembrance Anniversary** of beloved father **Mr. Siripala De Silva** and **08th Year Remembrance Anniversary** of beloved mother **Mrs Dedimuni Dasawathi Mendis** of Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Special Tribute to Our Devoted and Dedicated Member of the Centre:

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep (30-12-1935 and 16-07-2021):

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep was a founder member and long standing trustee of the centre. From

the beginning till to the last date she took the position of Honourable Secretary and rendered yeoman service to the centre and the community. A special Dana Ceremony and Merits Sharing were held at the Centre to mark the **02nd Death Anniversary** on **Sunday 16th July 2023**.

Mr Frederick Charles Day (26-07-1935 and 15-10-2021):

Mr Frederick Day's Internment on 09th June 2023:

Mr Frederick (fondly known as Fredie) was born on **26th July 1935** in Letchworth Garden City. He became a good friend of Venerable Bhante Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratne and all the members of the centre. He always liked what we did in the local community and deeply appreciate about them. He also benefited from our meditation, chanting and other welfare services. He maintained a good relationship with few charities in Nepal, India and Malaysia.

Venerale Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended to him regularly at his

residence and also in hospital to look after his welfare and did blessings. He greatly appreciated the blessings and meditation and emotional support given to him. He passed away on **15th October 2021** at Lister Hospital. A special ceremony was held on **Friday 09th June 2023** for **his internment** at **Wilbury Hills Cemetery** and at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre to rest his ashes and mark his **02nd year remembrance** merits transfer.

Most Venerable Bhikkhu Assaji Maha Thera (1950 – 09-10-2022): He was a long

standing visiting monk who supported all centre religious, cultural and social activities. He passed away on Vap Full Moon Poya **Sunday 09th October 2022** at **London Croydon Hospital**. His body was donated to Medical School. He is a very humble, wise, kind, very skilful and highly respected Buddhist Monk who spent over 30 years in UK and extended a great service to monks, temples and the communities in UK, Sri Lanka and many parts of the world. He spent his whole life very generously in service especially to children, adults and monastics without much attention even to his health. He is a great, resourceful and active Dhammaduta Bhikkhu (Missionary Monk). It is a great loss of Sambuddha Sasana and all of us. We all are indebted to his life and service. May he attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!

Most Venerable Aggamahapanditha Galayaye Piyadassi (28th June 1947 - 19th

December 2022) Adhikarana Sanghanayaka (Chief Prelate of Judiciary) Maha Thero MBE. Head monk of Sri Saddhathissa International Buddhist Centre, Kingsbury Temple and the Director of The World Buddhist Foundation.

First Anniversary of Remembrance Merits sharing took place at Kingsbury temple on **17th December 2023** with whole night chanting and dana ceremony. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the ceremony.

He is the founder patron of our Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. Most Venerable Galayaye Piyadassi Nayaka Thero has rendered a yeoman service to the international community based in London, United Kingdom. We will always his remember the incomparable service and boundless humanity. **May the Most Venerable Galayaye Piyadassi Nayaka Thero Attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!**

Full Moon Day and Monthly Retreat Sessions:

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya hosts regularly a monthly programme with mindfulness meditation retreat on Full Moon Day of the month. A day programme was held to mark the **Bak (April) Full Moon Poya Day** on **Saturday 08th April 2023**. Mr Nishantha and Mrs Anandi and friends in High Wycombe area sponsored it.

Programmes were continued on the following months too. A large number of members attended online and onsite with meditation, pooja, homage blessings and dhamma talks.

Vap (October) Full Moon Poya Day was on **Saturday 28th October 2023**, Our centre celebrated the October full moon poya day with chanting blessings. **Mrs Chathurika Nanayakka** and **Mr Ranil Adhikari** and family sponsored the programme. Evening pooja was sponsored by **Mr Godfry De Silva** and **Mrs Sunethra** and family and friends.

November (ILL) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Saturday 25th November 2023** at the centre. **Mrs Asha Karunathilaka** and **Mr Priyantha Herath** sponsored the day programme. Evening Pooja was sponsored by **Mr Nirosh Patel**, **Mr Nuwan Ferdinando** and friends of Ananda Colleage old boys association.

Uduvap (December) Full Moon Poya was on **Saturday 23rd December 2023**. Centre organized a year end merits sharing pooja. **Mr Ranil Adhikari** and **Mrs Chathurika Nanayakkara** sponsored the day programme.

Duruth (January) Full Moon Poya Day: Saturday 20th January 2024: Duruthu Poya Full Moon Day is the first full moon poya day of the New Year. Centre organized a special dhamma discussion, meditation session and a chanting of protection blessings Bodhi

pooja on **Saturday 20th January 2024** to mark the Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day. A large number of devotees joined online and onsite to the programme. **Mr Kanchana Wickremaratne** and **Mrs Shamain Rajapakse** sponsored the day programme. **Mr Godfry De Silva** and **Mrs Sunethra** sponsored the morning programme.

Navam (February) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Saturday 24th February 2024**. This was sponsored by **Miss Padma Wijeratne and Family**; to mark the 61st Birthday and transfer merits to parents.

Madin (March) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Saturday 23rd March 2024**. This programme was sponsored by **Miss Chamari Jayasinghe** and family to share blessings wishing Venerable Akurala Samitha and all at the temple on his birthday.

School Children Visit to The Buddhist Centre for 2023/2024:

On 16th May 2023, **The Children of Woolgrove School, Letchworth** visited the centre and one hour session was held with Miss Padma Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha. 4 adults and 10 children with special educational needs were atteneded. They learnt about culture and meditation. **Mrs Sharon Streater** organized the visit.

On 07th July 2023, another group of children from **Woolgrove School with special educational needs academy at Pryor Way**, Letchworth Garden City visited the Buddhist Centre. A group of 18 children and 9 staff members attended. **Mrs Sharon Streater** organized it and Ven Samitha and Venerable Piyananda conducted the session with meditation, Buddhist Stories and explain what centre does.

On Thursday 16th November 2023, St Christopher School at Letchworth Garden City, visited the centre. 26 children of year 5 and 4 adults were in the group. **Ms Claire Plain**, Junior School E Group Teacher & Science Coordinator organized it. Miss Padma Wijeratna and Venerable Akurala Samitha did a presentation on Buddhism, Culture, Community and Meditation.

On Wednesday 13th March 2024, Lady Zia Wernher Leagrave (LZWL) School, Luton. Venerable Akurala Samitha visited school in Leagrave, Luton and did talk on Meditation and gave a guided meditation session to the staff. 30 staff members attended and Mrs Mithila organized it.

Nursing Home Visit:

Vising nursing homes and providing spiritual care is one of the activities we deliver from our centre**. Venerable Akurala Samitha** and **Miss Padma Wijeratne** visited **Quantum Care**

Nursing Home Providence Court at Baldock, Garden House Hospice and White House Care Home regularly.

Training & Higher Education Programmes for Members of the Organization:

Our volunteers and chaplains attended **Basic Safeguarding** training and health and safty training.

Sri Lankan Independent Day was celebrated on Saturday 04th February 2024:

Sri Lankan National Day is on **04th February**. Centre community celebrated the **Sri Lankan Independence Day** on **Saturday 03rd February 2024** and commemorated the **76th Anniversary** for being an independent republic. In 1948 Sri Lanka received its sovereignty from **Great Britain**. Our centre organized a special pooja blessing to bring all Sri Lankan together and celebrated their cultural and patriotic values. Dhamma school children made

wonderful presentations to reflect the rich knowledge about the subject. It was a highly educational programme. **Dr Chaminda Prasad Silva and Mrs Chamila Samarakoon** and family sponsored the day programme.

Council of Sri Lankan Muslim Organisation in London Harrow organized a Special

cultural event to celebrate the **76th Independeence Day** of Sri Lanka on **02nd February 2024**. Sri Lankan High Commissioner to London **His Excellancy Mr Rohitha Bogollagama**, **Most Venerable Thiniyawala Palitha Thero** and few distinguish guests were attended. Venerable Akurala Samitha, Mr Sasanka Mendis and Miss Padma Wijeratna attended representing the centre. Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk on Independence Day and Sri Lankan Heritage.

New Round up 2023-2024:

Venerable Akurala Samitha attended few events, extending Our Services and Valuable Contributions of Venerable Akurala Samitha to other temples and organizations in UK.

- **On 10th April 2023 Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda Japanese Temple and their Community** celebrated the **flower festival (Vesak Buddha Day).** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and gave a talk.

- **On 19th April 2023: Never Forget Tibet: The Dalai Lama's Untold Story:** Film was screened at The Broadway Cinema, Letchworth on 19th April 2023. It was screened nationwide across the UK. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended with a number of devotees from the community.

- **On 22nd April 2023 A Special Dana Merits Transfer Ceremony** was held at **London Buddhist Vihara**. This was held in memory of **Most Venerable Bogoda Seelavimala Thero's sister** who passed away three months ago in Sri Lanka. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended.

- **On 24th April 2023, Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** made a **visit to Sri** **Lanka** to do some charity activities.

- **On 06th May 2023, King's Coronation Celebrations at Milton Keynes:** Milton Keynes Vihara celebrated King Charles Coronation ceremony at Milton Keynes Village Hall. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratna participated the event representing the centre.

- **07th May 2023 Milton Keynes Vihara celebrated Vesak Buddha Day** and Venerable Monks at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya conducted the programme. A large number of devotees attended.

- **On 13th May 2023, GCSE Exam blessings.** Venerable Akurala Samitha organized a special Blessings programme for the children who are going to sit for the GCSE exam.

- **21st May 2023: Miss Hansini Mallikarachchi and Mr Stanislav Natzmudinov** engaged as a couple after offering Dana (food) the monks. Venerable monks blessed the couple.

- **On 22nd May 2023: Watford Sri Lankan New Year Celebration.** Watford community organized their Sri Lankan New Year Festival and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratna joined representing the centre.

- **On 30th May 2023 Bracknell Community celebrated Vesak Sambuddha Day** **Festival** on 30th April 2023 at Bullbrook Community Centre. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the ceremony.

- **On 14th June 2023: Most Venerable Ananda Mangala Thero at Royal Free** **Hospital.** Venerable Akurala Samitha, Venerable Dammala Piyananda and Miss Padma Wijeratna visited the hospital to see Venerable Ananda Mangala Thero and did some chanting of blessings for get well soon.

- **On 21st June 2023: Miss Padma Wijeratna went to Sri Lanka** to do some charity work.

- **On 18th June 2023 Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda 43rd Anniversary Celebration:** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and gave a talk. Children of the centre gave some presentation and sang few devotional songs.

- **On 01st July 2023: Felicitation Ceremony of Receiving Credentials as Chief Prelate of England to Most Venerable Pethigamuwe Hemaratana Thero**, head monk of Redbridge Buddhist Cultural Centre in East London. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended representing the centre to the ceremony held at Woodbridge High School Auditorium, Essex.

- **On 04th July 2023: Most Venerable Udakarave Wimalajothi thero** visited from Sri Lanka. He gave a dhamma talk to our community.

- **On 14th July 2023: Visit to British Meseum in London:** Professor Arosha Bandara, Son Kanthika Bandara, Venerable Dammala Piyananda and Venerable Akurala Samitha visited the British Meseum in London as an educational trip.

- **On 15th July 2023: Felicitation Ceremony of Receiving Credentials as Chief** **Prelate of Judiciary in Great Britain to Most Makure Mangala Thero**, head monk of East London Lumbini Vihara in East London. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda attended the ceremony and also the whole night chanting ceremony. Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk and also gave a congratulation letter to the souvenir.

- **On 22nd July 2023 Thames Buddhist Vihara 42nd Anniversary:** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended with Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero to the whole night pirith chanting and following day dana ceremony.

- **On 23rd July 2023 Manchester Kethumathi Vihara:** Venerable Akurala Samitha visited Manchester Kethumathi Vihara to meet Head Monk Most Venerable Pidiyaville Piyathissa to discuss matters about Sri Lankan Monks council.

- **On 23rd July 2023: Most Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala Nayaka Thero Chief** **Prelate of Great Britain and Most Venerable Makure Mangala Thero Chief Prelate of Judiciary in UK** visited Venerable Akurala Samitha at Milton Keynes Vihara to discuss matter regarding the Monks Council in UK. Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero also attended.

- **On 24th July 2023 Dr Kamal Witharana Dana Ceremony at Letchworth Buddhist** **Vihara:** Dr Kamal & Mrs Samanmali Witharana hosted a special dana ceremony in memory of parents. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended with Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero and gave a Dhamma Talk.

- **On 24th July 2023 Buckingham Blessings Ceremony.** Mr Mihira and Mrs Madhavi De Silva came from Ireland and hosted a blessing ceremony with the friends and family in Buckingham. Venerable Monks attended to conduct the ceremony.

- **06th August 2023 Hiroshima Day Lanterns 78th Remembrance:** Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended annual **Hiroshima Day Ceremony and floating of candle-lit Laterns of Willen Lake**, organized by Nipponzan Myohoji Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda Buddhist Temple, Willen Lake Milton Keynes. Mr David Rennie, Mrs Astrid Ubas, Rev Akurala Samitha, Rev. Paul Smith, Imam Fazle Khundkar, Mrs Lynda Gilbert, Nagase Shonin sama, Mrs Debbie Brock DL High Sheriff of Bucks, Councillor Amanda Marlow, Mayor of Milton Keynes, Jake Lomax (young practitioner), Tony Kempster (sing) delivered speeches. The ceremony seeks to reflect on the horrors of war in an atomic age, to remember those who have died, and to pray together for peace and harmony between all people and nations.

- **On 17th August 2023, Visit to Woolsthrorpe Manor, Grantham, the place where** **Isaac Newton change the world.** An educational trip was organized by monks to learn history and science.

- **20th August 2023 Late Reverend Handa Shoni's 17th death anniversary remembrance merits transfer ceremony** was held at Japanese Peace Pagoda Milton Keynes. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended for the ceremony and the dana.

- **On 22nd August 2023 Visit to Cardiff Wales:** A large number of Sri Lankan students arrived in Cardiff to study. Venerable Samitha visited them to support with the sipiritual needs.

- **27th August 2023: Car Boot Sale for Charity Fun Raise:** Members of the community occationally host different fund raising events to raise funds for the charity. Monks and Volunteers raised some funds by attending a car boot sale.

- **On 31st August 2023: Onam Festival:** Onam is an annual harvest and Hindu cultural festival celebrated mostly by the people of Kerala and is traditionally associated with the legend of the benevolent Asura King Mahabali, who once ruled Kerala, returning each year to visit his people. A group of Kerala community held a special celebration at Lister Hospital with the participation of interfaith members. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended.

- **On 16th & 17th September 2023: Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara Opening** **Ceremony and 70th Birthday of Most Venerable Dr**

Witharandeniye Kassapa Thero: Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the ceremony and gave a talk.

- **17th September 2023 London Vihara 159th Birthday Day of Anagarika Dharmapala The Founder of London Buddhist Vihara & 97th Anniversary of The London Buddhist Vihara Celebrated Sunday 17th September 2023**. A Memorial lecture, and paritta chanting was held at the Vihara on Sunday 17th September 2023. The programme commenced with garlanding the bust of Anagarika Dharmapala at the Vihara, by the **Deputy High Commissioner of the Sri Lanka High Commission in the UK**. Chanting of paritta was led by twelve senior monks from a number of Buddhist temples in England. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** attended the ceremony. Maha Paritta Chanting and following day morning dana was held to transfer of merits to Anagarika Dharmapala.

- **On 21st September 2023: Chief Prelate (Sangha Nayaka) of England, Most Venerable Pidiville Piyathissa Nayaka Thero Visit:** The patron of Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha Most Venerable Pidiville Piyathissa, Head Monk of Manchester Kethumathi Vihara visited to discuss the progress of the community of monks. The meeting was hosted at the residence of Dr Shantha Godagama and Mrs Ranji's house. **Monks also visited Dr Nanda De Silva who was in the hospital.** Dr Nanda De Silva is long standing supporter of the centre.

- **On 30th September 2023: A Speicial Dhamma Talk to Children and Adult at Stoke on Trent Buddhist Vihara:** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the Binara (September) full Moon Poya Day celebration at Stoke On Trent Buddhist Vihara and delivered a Dhamma Talk.

- **On 07th October 2023: A Special Dhamma Talk by Most Venerable Delgoda Gnanasumana Maha Thera,** Head Monk of Gnanagaveshi Meditation Centre, Gonahena, Kadawatha, Sri Lanka, held at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. **Mr Godfry De Silva**, **Mr Rasika Jayawardana** and **Miss Hansini Mallikarachchi** and **Mr Stanislav Natzmudinov** and family and also community sponsored the dhamma talk.

- **On 08th October 2023 Miss Padma Wijeratna** hosted a special programme at her residence. Most Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Delgoda Gnanasumana Thero, Head Monk of Gnanagaveshi Meditation Centre, Kadawatha, Gonahena Sri Lanka attended.

- **On 27th October 2023, Halovine Celebration:** Children of the community celebrated the halovine day with different activities. Centre supported them to experience it.

- **17th November 2023: Malaysian Community** Special Programme was held at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya to share blessings to all.

- **On 18th November 2023, Festival of Light at Milton Keynes Gallary:** Mrs Jessica Memon organized this to bring different communities together and find the unity in cultures. 20 children from our centre attended and offered signing and traditional dancing. Mrs Cheryl Green also offered laughing yoga session. Venerable Akurala Samitha also attended.

- **On 11th November 2023 offering Gift Parcels and Donation Items to 30 local temples and community centres:** Mrs Himali Reid, Mr Asitha Wijethunga and Mrs Lasanthika Chithrapathra sponsored 30 parcels of special food items and toiletries to be distributed to local Buddhist community centre in UK to mark the end of rains retreat season.

- **On 10th December 2023: Manchester Kethumathi Vihara Head Monk Most Venerable Pidiville Piyathissa Felicitation ceremony.** Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to the felicitation ceremony to mark the award of Chief Prelate to England to Most Venerable Pidiville Piyathissa Maha Thero.

- **On 25th December 2023: Christmas Decorations:** Children of the community join the activites to make Christmas decorations. Mr Ashitha Wijethunga and Mrs Lasanthika Chithrapathra organized and sponsored the blessings sharing lunch dana on Christmas day for the monks and community.

- **On 06th January 2024: Redbridge Buddhist Vihara in London Annual Pirith Chanting Ceremony:** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended whole night chanting.

- **On 07th January 2024: Mr Thejana and Mrs Pesala Nawarathna and family** hosted a dana and blessings programme at their home. **Head Monk of Scotland Buddhist Vihara, Most Venerable Kamburawala Rewatha Thero** also attended with resident monks of the Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre.

- **On 20th January 2024: Mr Chathura Vidyaratna and Mrs Menaka** hosted a dana ceremony at their home in London. Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a dhamma talk for the children.

- **On 16th February 2024: Book Launch by Dr Laura Woodward: Mental Wellbeing and Positive Psychology** **for Veterinary Professionals: A Pre-emptive, Proactive and Solution-based Approach. Mental wellbeing and Positive Psychology for Veterinary Professionals.** Dr Laura Woodward published her new book and presented the book to her Father, Children & Bhante Samitha Akurala. Dr Laura states in the book dedication: "*To Bhante Samitha, who introduced me to mindfulness and meditation, who taught me with compassion and wisdom, and who shares laughter and joy with me at every available opportunity."* Dr Laura Woodward, MVB; CertVR; CertSAS; Dip Couns; MRCVS is the Founder of a counselling and mindfulness practice for veterinary professionals based in the United Kingdom. She is also a surgical veterinarian at the Hampstead Village Vet Hospital in London.

Obituaries:

- **27th March 2023: Dr. Nihal Elapatha (08/12/1949 – 27/03/2023):** Long standing good friend of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre and regular participant of our meditation weekly sessions passed away with a short term health condition. Venerable Monks from our centre conducted funeral service on **12th May 2023** at **Vinters Park Crematorium** and did some blessings for the burial at **Maidstone Cemetery**.

- **21st April 2023: Mr Paul Bodhipala Bohitige** (25th October 1937 - 26th March 2023). Venerable monks conducted funeral on **21st April 2023** at West Herts Crematorium, Watford. Special remembrance dana was held at the Buddhist Centre.

- **04th May 2023: Rev Canon Jane Halton:** is long standing Chaplain at East and North Herts NHS Trust Lister Hospital. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne worked very closely with her on interfaith activities. Venerable Monks attended the funeral service on 04th May 2023.

- **11th June 2023: Mrs. Kalyani Princey Perera: (12th April 1926 – 16th June 2022)** A Service was held for interment (resting the ashes) at Amarawathi Monastery Hemel Hempstead. Venerable Monks attended.

- **05th July 2023: Mr Roshan Kankanamge (05-07-2023 - 1970)** passed away at his residence on 05th July 2023 and funeral took place on **17th July** at **Befordshire Crematorium**. Venerable Akurala Samihta and resident monks conducted the ceremony.

- **05th July 2023: Mrs Navamalee Ranatunga (07th February – 05th July 2023)** passed away on 05th July 2023. Beloved wife of constultant psychiatric **Dr M B Ranathuna** and mother of Mr Arjuna. She is a long standing member of our centre. Venerable Akurala Samitha did the **07th Day Dhamma Talk** on **10th July 2023**. Large

number of friends participated online and at home. Resident Monks participated and our temple community participated for the dana on **11th July 2023**. Funeral took place at Manchester on **23rd July 2023**. Venerable Akurala Samitha participated with other monks in UK.

- **05th July 2023: Ms Mary Barr Stewart Moncaster (17th March 1930 – 05th July 2023**) passed away at the age of 93 years old. Monks and devotees regularly visited her at nursing home and spiritually supported her. Family deeply appreciated those contributions from monks and temple. She was at **Providence Court Quantumcare Boldock.** Funeral took place at **North Hertfordshire Memorial Park and Crematorium**, Holwel in Hitchin on **21st July 2023** and Venerable Akurala Samitha did a short blessing. **Ms Naomi Gruzeller**, independent celebrant conducted the funeral.

- **11th August 2023: Mrs Nishanthi Udayakumar (25th December 1968 – 11th August 2023):** passed away and funeral took place at Golders Green Crematorium in London on 20th August 2023. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda attended and conducted the funeral service.

- **01st September 2023: Denis Thomas Sampson (30th July 1935 – 01st September 2023)** passed away. He was a long standing member of the centre. He attended all our meditation session in 2016 and ever since help a lot of temple works. He also visited Sri Lanka two times in 2017 and 2018 with Venerable Akurala Samitha. Funeral took place in Stevange on **22nd September 2023**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratna conducted the funeral.

- **On 14th October 2023: Most Venerable Medagamuwa Vijaya Maithree Anu Nayaka Maha Thero** of Sri Lanka Ramannaya Maha Nikaya and Director in Education Ministry, passed away in Sri Lanka. **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe** sponsored Saturday pooja in remembrance to him and share merits.

- **30th November 2023: Dr Chandrika Worrall (11th Janury 1974 – 30th November 2023): passed** away and funeral took place at **West Berkshire Crematorium**, Thatchem on **Monday 15th January 2024**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and the community conducted the funeral. **Mr Nissanka Pathirathna**, **Mrs Dinesha** and **Mr Kasun Fernando** offered the dana on **15th January 2024** for the monks.

- **29th December 2023: Mr G G Gnanathilaka Rajapaksha (24th May 1943 – 29th December 2023):** Father of Mrs Shamain passed away in Sri Lanka. Funeral took place in Sri Lanka and Daughter Shamain and family hosted a religious service with offering dana monks and dedicating mathaka vatta at the centre on **30th December 2023**.

- **20th February 2024: Dr Ajith De Silva (1952 – 20th February 2024):** A long standing member of the centre and also the founding member of Milton Keynes Vihara passed away. Funeral took place on **Monday 11th March 2024** at **Crownhill Crematorium in Milton Keynes**. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the funeral. 07th Day dana was held at Milton Keynes on **26th February 2024**. Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama, Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero and Venerable Sister Maruth also participated.

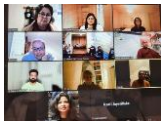
Mindfulness Meditation Programmes:

Lister Hospital Mindfulness Meditation Programmes: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne and Mr Sasanka Mendis visit **Lister Hospital East & North Herts NHS Trust** to do regular weekly mindfulness meditation sessions. Venerable Akurala Samitha trained staff and patient and facilitates drop in sessions. Every Thursday 5-6PM regular drop in mindfulness session takes place at the hospital.

Mindfulness Webinars hosted by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya:

Our Centre organized regular webinars to bring professionals, scholars and wellbeing practitioners together to share the knowledge. It was a great support for the community.

Webinar on Saturday 08th July 2023 on "Cause and Effect Theory:" By Dr Thura Limbin: Medical Practitioner and long standing meditation practitioner conducted the session and share the teachings on Mindfulness Meditation and Early Buddhist Teachings.



<u>Mindfulness Meditation Courses and Psychotherapy Counselling Session:</u>

Centre organizes Mindfulness Meditation Courses in **Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard, Godmanchester, Barcknell and London**. It has been very beneficial to our multicultural community and those courses have been very popular. It also brought funds to the centre. Everyone deeply appreciated the wellbeing and happiness brought into their lives through teachings of Reverend Akurala Samithasiri (Bhante Samitha Akurala).

Mindfulness Meditation Retreats: Few One Day retreats were held in **Letchworth & Milton Keynes** during this year (2023-2024). Those were included from 6AM till 6PM whole day programme with silent meditation, guided meditation, mindfulness teaching, webinars, seminars, workshops, presentations, guest speakers,

sharing lunch and discussions on selected topics. **One Day retreats** were held on **06th May 2023**, **19th August 2023** and **27th January 2024** At Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre.

Year End Meditation Day was held on 04th November 2023: A large number of devotees attended and **Mr Prasadh Uyanwaththa, Mrs Dharshi Ginige & Daughter Thenuki Uyanwaththa and family** and **Mrs Iresha Embuldeniyage, Mr Darshana Opatha Kankanamge, Son Dylan and Son Shawn and family** sponsored the day retreat programme.

On 26th December 2023 Mr Samual Heaps is a long standing member of the meditation group. Venerable Akurala Samitha dedicated a Buddha Statue for his newly build shrine and meditation room.

<u>Children's Mindfulness Course</u> (Letchworth, Milton Keynes and Bracknell) Letchworth Session is held on every **First Saturday from 3.30PM till 5PM**. A significant number of children attended the session. Parents had real interest to up keep the course as those are very beneficial to the children for concentration and dealing with emotional difficulties.

Lister Hospital Renal Department: End of Life in Advanced Kidney Disease Master Class: Wednesday 11th October 2023: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Padma Wijeratna gave a presentation and guided meditation on Mindfulness Meditation to the students of Master Class as part of their educational programme in Advanced Kidney Disease. Purposes were to increase the knowledge and understanding of end of lie pathways, recognise patients who are dying in an acute setting and understand the nature of renal palliative care. Rev John O'Neil and Rev Michael Sijuwade aso contributed on Culture and Relgious needs.

Birmingham University, University of Wales: Mindfulness in the workplace on 01st **November 2023:** Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne attended to Birmingham University and delivered a paper for the undergraduate students as part of their course on Inteligence Reciliances. **Dr Sujewa Herath Course Cordinator organized** this. Students and also staff were given opportunity to learn Mindfulness Meditation and how to manage stress and anxiety. Session was well attended.

Second Year Course, Birmingham University, Mindfulness in Degree Course on 04th **and 07th February 2024:** Venerable Akurala Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratna and Mr Sasanka Mendis delivered a paper at Birmingham Campus, University of Wales for the undergraduate students as part of their modul on Inteligence at work environment. **Dr Sujewa Herath Course Cordinator organized** this.

<u>Letchworth Adults Beginners Mindfulness Courses:</u>

Centre held **five courses** during this year for adults in Letchworth area. It was onsite and online. These were 08 weeks courses. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** dedicated a lot to keep

these courses up and raise funds for the centre. We are very grateful for her volunteer support.

Letchworth Course I: Started: 27-04-2023 Finished: 15-06-2023
Letchworth Course II: Started: 29-06-2023 Finished: 17-08-2023
Letchworth Course III: Started: 31-08-2023 Finished: 19-10-2023
Letchworth Course IV: Started: 02-11-2023 Finished: 21-12-2023
Letchworth Course V: Started: 04-01-2024 Finished: 22-02-2024

Following are some pictures from Letchworth Adults Mindfulness Meditation Courses 2023-2024.

Advanced Mindfulness Course: Every Wednesday 7-9PM Every Wednesday Advanced Mindfulness Course is being held at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. **Five groups** were completed during the whole year.

Letchworth Advanced Mindfullness Course I: Started: 26-04-2023 Finished: 14-06-2023
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course II: Started 28-06-2023 Finished 16-08-2023
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course III: Started 30-08-2023 Finished 18-10-2023
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course IV: Started 01-11-2023 Finished 20-12-2023
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course V: Started 03-01-2024 Finished 21-02-2024

Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester Mindfulness Meditation Beginners Courses:

We contineue to meet people on those locations after the pandemic for Mindfulness Meditation Sessions. Some people joined online on Thursday and Wednesday. Quite a few them visited centre too.

All our Mindfulness Meditation courses had been very successful. It has been a great help to the community. These also enabled funds to the up keep the centre.

Sunday Drop In Mindfulness Meditation in Letchworth: Every Sunday evening 7-9PM we regularly host a session for the community to drop in for Mindfulness Meditation. With the outbreak of the pandemic, we hosted it online. It was a great success. **Dr Thura Limbin** and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** facilitate with teachings and hosting. It focuses on teachings from original sources and practice. It has been a very educational and our community has been benefiting from it. Different subjects were discussed and guide the community to attend the meditation regularly on every Sunday throughout the year.

Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions:

Our Psychotherapy and Counselling Sessions were going very well. A good number of people regularly get the service. Venerale Akurala Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratne and Mr Mark Brumwell continued to provide the services. Few other professionals requested to join the team. We provide online and also onsite sessions. Those sessions have brought good amount of funds to upkeep the centre.

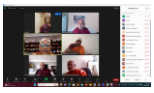
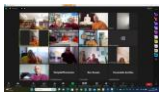
Licence to Operate as a Buddhist Centre & A place of Worship:

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation granted Reverend Akurala Samithasiri "Licence to operate as a Buddhist Centre at 69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City". Also it is **a place of worship** since **30th August 2018** under Democratic and Statutory Services, Hertfordshire Registration Services. UK home office also granted the licence sponsorship on **28th July 2023**.

TBSUK (Theravada Buddhist Sangha in United Kingdom) & Sri Lanka Monks Council UK:

Venerable Akurala Samitha and the centre is a member of the above organizations. **On 04th April 2023**, Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the annual general meeting of **TBSUK**.

Sri Lankan (Sangha Sabha) Monks Council in UK held on 28th July 2023.

Venerable Akurala Samitha was selected as the secretary. This nineth meeting was held online. Tenth meeting was held at **London Buddhist Vihara Chiswick** on **30th August 2023**. **Eleventh Meeting** was held online on **24th October 2023**. **Twelth Meeting** was held at **Birmingam Maha Vihara on 16th January 2024**.

School Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE): Venerable Akurala Samitha is the Buddhist Advisor to both Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. He contributes into the School Advisory Council for Religious Education as a member.

North Herts Interfaith Forum: Venerable Akurala Samitha is a committee member of the North Herts Interfaith Forum and contributes to its activities to bring cohesion among the faith groups.

Fund Raising Financial Insights of the Year 2023-2024:

All our courses and teaching programmes are on donation basis. We managed to raise funds to the centre as follows.

Following list is just a general outline to show how the donations received and expenses maintained. Please look into the accountant's report for more accurate figures.

Fund raising programmes:

- Beginners Mindfulness Meditation onsite and Online Courses in Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Bracknell, London, Leighton Buzzard and Godmanchester.
- Diploma Mindfulness Meditation Courses online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Advanced Mindfulness Meditation Courses Online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Buddhism Online Courses in Letchworth.
- Children's Mindfulness Meditation Online Course in Letchworth.
- Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions in Letchworth.
- Dana Donations received to the centre.
- Blessings Gratitude Donations received to the Centre.
- General Donations received to the centre.
- Donations received to the travel expenses towards the car.
- Child Sponsorship Project.
- Reverend Akurala Samithasiri contributed to the centre all the personal donations received to him (these are in addition to the above course funds.)
- Standing Order Subscriptions received to the Centre.
- General Donations Received to the centre account.
- Disaster Emergency help Fund received for helping Sri Lanka.
- Kathina Donation Received individually.
- Centre Standing Orders and General Donations.

Total income (Donations): = £129,447.00

- HMRC Gift Aid: £41,173.00

Total income (Donations & Gift Aid): = £170,621.00

Expenses Break Down for the year 2021-2022:

- House Mortgage Rent & Hiring Community Centre Halls to host meditation and other events.
- Centre improvements.
- Gas, Electricity & Water.
- Telephone.
- Food.
- Motor, Travel & Transport.
- Monks Expenses and other expenses.
- Council Tax.

Total Expenses: = £163,026.00

Conclusion:

Despite the challenges of after math of the pandemic, 2023-2024 Year of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre was a very progressing year. We are very grateful to all our

members and friends by supporting us to achieve another successful year. **However we continued to face challenges as the demand for our services are increasing after the pandemic and also inflation (rise of cost of living) with the beginning of the year 2023**. **It was even hard to survive. So we had to cut lots of cost and work hard to raise funds.** However our members were very supportive and helped for the welfare of the monks and helped the centre to survive through the difficult time. Monks even worked tirelessly to help the needy timelessly.

We managed to make a big difference to the livelihood in our local community especially through mental health services and children programmes and also our international community, particularly Sri Lanka. We are very impressed with the voluntary support and goodwill of our devotees to up keep our services and events.

Our projects in Sri Lanka were also very demanding due the economic crisis and pandemic in Sri Lanka. Cost of living had gone sky high in Sri Lanka. We had to do extra help. We were happy to help children to get their studies and other necessities. Our education projects for the needy children in Sri Lanka had been a great need. However their lives in Sri Lanka were getting much harder and they were now experiencing financial crisis and country economic situation. We might have to do little bit more towards them. We endeavour to develop our support to them little bit more in the next year.

We are pleased to see a good and growing interest from our local community on our Mindfulness Courses, Meditation Sessions, Psychotherapy and Counselling session. We also determine to extend those services into our multicultural community in the forthcoming year. Those courses, voluntary services and teachings have changed the lives without any obligation to gender, race, religion, ethnicity or age.

On behalf of the **trustees of Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre** for Education, Meditation, Psychotherapy & Counselling (UK Registered Charity Number 1116187), we would like to **thank all our supporters and well wishes** for helping our charity fundraising events encouraging us to continue our charitable services for the benefit of the public. We look forward to see more new members joining to strengthen our community wellbeing projects and make our charity efforts a success.

Thank you.

.....	.....	.....
Reverend Akurala Samitahsiri	Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne	Mr Gary Bland
President	Secretary	Treasurer

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYC

England & Wales - Charity number 1116187

Accounts

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA

BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st MARCH 2023

Charity Number 1116187

A. Dervish & Co. Ltd
Accountants
496-498 Bearwood Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4HB

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Reference and Administrative information

Charity Name	Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Registered Charity Number	1116187
Principal Address	69 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ
Board of Trustees	Rev Akurala Samithasiri Padmalatha Wijeratne Gary A L Gland John Williams Nicola Butler Emma D'Avilar
Independent Examiner	A. Dervish & Co. Limited Accountants 496-498 Bearwood Road Bearwood Birmingham B66 4HB
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC Leicester LE87 2BB

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2023	**Charity no**	1116187
Set out on pages	3-5		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:		**Date:**	08/07/2025
Name:	Ahmet Dervish		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body):	Institute of Financial Accountants		
Address:	496-498 Bearwood Road, Bearwood, Smethwick, B66 4HB		

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31st March 2023

	2023	2022
Income		
Donations	112,538	80,682
HMRC Gift Aid		20,875
	112,538	101,557
Expenditure		
Monks expenses	12,464	16,509
Rent and housing costs	40,749	35,980
Light and Heat	2,957	2,140
Rates and water	4,352	1,071
Salaries and wages	12,000	12,000
Repairs and maintenance	445	0
Telephone and mobile	839	947
Travel and motor	13,196	7,996
Printing postage and stationery	1,512	618
Bank loan interest and charges	255	0
Sundries	2,045	5,760
IE Fee	500	0
Blessings and Sponsorship	18,839	4,450
Events	4,099	930
Depreciation	1,491	1,987
	115,745	90,388
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	(3,209)	11,169
Total funds brought forward	22,086	10,916
Total funds carried forward	18,877	22,086

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2023

		2023		2022
Fixed Assets				
Motor vehicle	33,500		33,500	
Accum. Depreciation	(27,538)		(22,900)	
Annual Depreciation	(1,491)	4,472	(1,987)	5,962
Meditation Hall		24,693		24,693
		29,165		30,655
Current Assets				
Cash at bank		6,710		19,389
Current Liabilities				
Loans	15,900		13,177	
Creditors and accruals	1,098	(16,998)	14,781	(27,958)
Net Assets		18,877		22,086
Funds				
Brought forward		22,086		10,916
Surplus (Loss) from I&E		(3,209)		11,169
		18,877		22,086

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the:

11/07/2025

These financial statement are approved by:

Reverend Akurala Samithisiri

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2023

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost Convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, and the Charities Act 1993.

The charity has historically prepared accounts on the accruals basis, despite there being no requirement.

Income

Voluntary income is received by way of donations

Motor Vehicles
Motor vehicles are not held in the name of the charity, but are held in the name of Reverend Samithisiri. The vehicle is paid for by the charity on the understanding that it's use is for the charity and should Reverend Samithisiri leave the services of the charity that the vehicle will be returned to the charity. Due to the terms of the provision, the charity elects to show the vehicle as an asset of the charity even though the title is not in the charities name.

Rent and Housing Costs
The charity directly and indirectly pays for the housing and property expenses associated with the provision of Buddhist services to the public and for the accommodation of the monks. Some of these expenses are capital in nature but are not directly owned by the charity and therefore are not listed in the assets of the charity.

Charity Trustees Annual Report 2022

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE

FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING

Letchworth
Dhamma Nikethanaya
Buddhist Cultural Centre

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ

Website: www.buddhistacademy.com
Email: buddhistacademy@gmail.com
Telephone: 01462 641 688
Mobile: 07983 466 105

Sunday 02rd April 2023

Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre
for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

Charity Trustees Annual Report:

This meeting was held online and at the centre.

On Sunday 02nd April 2023

Present Trustees: Reverend Akurala Samithasiri,
Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne,
Mrs Nikki Butler,
Mr Gary Bland
Ms Emma Davilar &
Mr John Williams

Other Members Present: Mr. Dharshana Jayaratne, Mrs. Harsha Silva, Mr Udena Wanniarachchi, Mrs Himali Reid, Mrs. Manel Perera, Mr. Rasika Jayawardana, Mr Ram Murthi Summan, Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva, Mr Glenn Everard, Mrs Vipuli Gunasena, Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi, Mr Paul Martin, Ms Emma Davilar, Mr Manohar Summan, Mr Indika P P Daluwathu Mullage and Mrs Malindi, Mr Dayal Summan and Mrs Bhaksho Summan.

Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thera; head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero, Principal of Rathanasara Vidyayathana Pirivena and Resident Monk of Dutugemunu Raja Maha Viharaya, Baddegama Galle attended as guest monks.

Meeting started with few minutes meditation and religious observations. Reverend Akurala Samithasiri welcomed everyone and chaired the charity annual meeting. A minute silence was observed in tribute to members who passed away.

Miss Padma Wijeratne presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi suggested the minutes as accurate and Ms Emma Davilar seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri requested to elect the trustees and new office bearers for the **New Year 2023-2024**. Miss Padma Wijeratne suggested Reverend Akurala Samithasiri to re-elect as the trustee and the president. Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi seconded it. Mr Dharshana Jayarathna suggested to elect Miss Wijeratne as the secretary and trusee and Mr Indika Daluwathu Mullage seconded it. Mrs Harsha Silva suggested to re-elect Mr Gary Bland as the treasurer and the trustee and Mr Rasika Jayawardana seconded it. Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi suggested to elect Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary and the trustee. Mrs. Manel Perera seconded it. Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi suggested Mr John Williams as the trustee and the vice president. Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva seconded it. Mrs Harsha Silva suggested to elect Ms Emma Davilar as the trustee and the assistant treasurer. Mr Indika Daluwathu Mullage seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri was elected as the president, Mr John Williams as the vice president, Miss Padma Wijeratne as the secretary, Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary, Mr Gary Bland as the treasurer and Mrs Emma Davilar as the assistant treasurer were elected as new office bearers for the year 2023-2024.

2022-2023 Annual Report: (01-04-2022 & 31-03-2023)

Welcome to the **19th Annual General Meeting** of **Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling** registered charity.

This report will reflect the work carried out by our charity for the year ending **31st March 2023**. We all have gained more confidence to continue our daily life as usual after the pandemic. As in the previous years we have been continuing our services and carrying out our objectives for the benefit of the community in UK and other countries (Only Sri Lanka in this year).

Sri Lankan New Year Festival Celebrated on 14th April 2022

Sri Lankan New Year falls in April. It is a very important cultural event for our community. Members of Sri Lankan origin gather to observe cultural events and blessings. Our centre celebrated Sri Lankan New Year with traditional food and other activities of the festivity. We also held the traditional Oil Anointing Ceremony and children's cultural games on **14th and 17th April 2022**. A large number of member families joined for the annual event and blessings. It goes alone with the Easter holidays. Everyone appreciated this opportunity to experience the culture while living miles away from home country.

Centre Anniversary Day Celebration 19th April 2021

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre started on 19th April 2004. Therefore 19th April of the year is regarded as the centre anniversary day. This year it marks the **19th Year of the Centre and our organization** and also the **17th year being a registered charity**. To mark this special day of the Centre we held a special pooja, dana offering to remember those who lost their lives during the pandemic. Venerable Monks attended for a special chanting, meditation programme, dhamma talk and pooja on Tuesday **19th April 2022** to appreciate all the help from the community and bless them all in gratitude sharing.

Vesak Buddha Day Celebration: Special Day Programme with Observing Sil (Higher Precepts), Dhamma Talks, Meditation, Buddha Bodhi Pooja, Chanting and Festival of Vesak Lanterns Day on 14th May 2022

Vesak (May) Full Moon Day is the most important day to Buddhists across the globe as it celebrates the birth, enlightenment and the great passing away of our lord Buddha. **On 14th of May 2022** all the members joined online and onsite for a day programme with observing higher precepts, homage, Meditation, Dhamma talks and chanting protection blessings. A large number of devotees joined onsite **on 14th May 2022** for offering dana and doing a special Bodhi pooja. Children and adults joined singing the devotional songs at the centre and at online programme. The Centre was decorated with typical Vesak lanterns and celebration atmosphere.

Charity Work in Sri Lanka: Corona Pandemic, Food and Economic Crisis Appeal for Sri Lanka: 5th till 13th June 2022:

After the pandemic and economic crisis, new born babies, pregnant women were having serious health issues due to malnutrition. There arose a critical baby food shortage in Sri Lanka. So many Sri Lankans contacted us for help. Venerable Akurala Samitha organised a fund raising appeal to provide dry food parcels for needy in particular to pregnant women and to the families with babies. All the members supported the good course. **Over £7000/= were raised. Over 600 families received** the food parcels worth the shopping of a month.

Sri Lanka Charity Work: Helping Needy with clothes, food and Temple Construction & Building work.

Our devotees supported some of the incomplete temple works in some parts of Sri Lanka. General donations were made to few

temples in Sri Lanka. Boxes with clothes, food items and other sanitary facilities were sent from our centre to Sri Lanka.

Mr H. Chadha at School Uniform Shop at High Street, Southall donated a large number of School uniforms.

Distribution of Free School Uniform Jackets (Sweatshirts) to Over 300 Very Poor Children (3-12 year olds) in Nuwara Eliya, Bagavantalawa, Sri Lanka. **Mr Janapriya Gallege** or **Mr Chamara Sampath Gamage** distributed these on **10th October 2022**. **Mr Chaman Lal & Mrs Asha Virdee** from London Southall initiated these donations. **Mrs Sandya Silva (UK), Mrs Jennifer Dissanayaka (Ceylon Shipping Sri Lanka) and Miss Padma Wijeratne (UK)** helped with the shipping initiatives. Our Sri Lankan Charity co-ordinators **Mrs Anuradha Madaduwage** and others made the great efforts to take them to the very rural areas of hilly and cold side of the up-country.

Free Food Stall in Sri Lanka (Dansela) Sri Pada / Adam's Peak Mountain in Sri Lanka:

Annual people climbe Adam's Peak (Sri Pada) for spiriutual reasons. It is a pilgrimage. For the people (Devotees) we organized one to share free food **on 27th November 2022.**

Essential Medical supplies to Sri Lanka:

A Special fund raising was held to raise funds to buy essential medicine and supplies to Sri Lankan Hospitals. A group of doctors lives in UK, together with some wellwishers from Swindon Sri Lankan community organized this. They sold food, held cultural events and made an appeal for general donations to raise funds. This project managed to raise £11315/=. Together with bank charge of £20/=, we sent Sri Lanka **£11335/=** to buy medical supplies for hospitals. Mr Hasanka Don co-ordinated the project.

Offering Food to Residents of a Home with Special Needs People in Kalutara, Sri Lanka 20th December 2022:

Members of our centre community provide regular food donations to different people in need in Sri Lanka. On 20th December, morning and lunch was provided for over 60 residents (male and female and young and adults) in a nursing home in Kalutara Sri Lanka on **20th December 2022**.

Supporting Temple's Building Pojects in Sri Lanka: Our members support

regularly through our charity recommended project to build community facilities in temples in Sri Lanka. Donations worth RS 500000.00 (£450) were given to Balapitiya Kovilawatta Bodhirukkharama for their building fund on 17th Feb 2023.

Caring for the sick and supporting hospitals in Sri Lanka: Special event was

held on **Saturday 14th January 2023** to raise the awareness of support needed to hospitals in Sri Lanka. Director of Hospital Services Council of Sri Lanka, **Most Venerable Rajawelle Subuthi Thero** attended to do the presentation. Our members pledged to support this charitable course.

Our centre donated medical equipments to Sri Lanka. Those were donated by our community.

Sri Lanka Child Sponsorship, Community Welfare Support, Charity Projects: For 2022-2023:

We are very grateful to all our members for supporting the child sponsorship programmes and other welfare activities in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is still going through economic problems and people are facing with sortage of essential items, including medicine, food, fuel, etc. This made the need of extra to help our children. We continued to sponsor financially our children in Sri Lanka. They all have shown outstanding success in their education.

Mrs Louise Alan William Moore helped to raise funds for **Christmas gifts for Children in Sri Lanka**. With the support of our centre community, we gave some school uniform to needy children in Sri Lanka for the new year 2023.

Charity Projects in Sri Lanka for the Financial Year 2022 / 2023:

We shipped food items, baby food, medicine and sanitary items to **Sri Lanka through out our financial year.** Sri Lankans were struggling with economic and health crisis. We are very grateful for our community for stepping into help the needy people in Sri Lanka.

Special Programmes in Other Countries: **Romania**: Venerable Akurala Samitha

visited the community in Romania on **16th and 17th January 2023** and conducted few meditation sessions,

blessings programmes and talks. Mr Brixious Anthony and Mr Sisira Gunawardhane also attended.

Hungary: Venerable Akurala Samitha visited Hungary **on 23rd January 2023** and

conducted few sessions of Meditation, talks and blessings' Miss Padma Wijeratne also attended. Ms Brigitta Monore hosted some of the events.

Poson Full Moon Poya Day Programme on 11th June 2022

Buddhists observe the full Moon Poya Day every month as a significant day for practice (*sabbath*). Even though every full moon poya day is important, some of them are highly significant due to historical reasons. **Poson Full Moon Poya Day** is the second such significant Full Moon Poya Day for particularly Sri Lankan Buddhists as on that day the Buddhism was introduced to **Sri Lanka in 236 BC** (Before Christ) and another seven countries from India.

We had a day programme on **11th June 2022** to observe Poson Full Moon Poya Day with observing Ata (eight) sil (precepts), meditation, Buddha pooja, Bodhi pooja and dhamma discussions.

Milton Keynes Vihara celebrated Poson with a replica of Mihintalaya Rock, Bhakthi (devotional) songs and free food stall on **03rd July 2022**.

Every Saturday Evening From 6PM till 8PM Dhamma Dana, Bodhi Pooja, Meditation & Protection Blessings Chanting Programme: Online and Onsite:

Every Saturday we host a special Programme to share the teachings, blessings and also provide few minutes meditation. Good number of devotees regularly joined these programmes from home, online and onsite at the Buddhist Centre. This Saturday Evening Dhamma Dana Sermons, Bodhi Pooja, Blessings Chanting, Meditation programmes were held in the evening from 6PM till 8PM. The programme was included a **Dhamma Talk in Sinhala, Dhamma Talk in English, Bodhi Pooja Homage, Meditation and Protection Blessings Chanting**.

Venerable Monks offered the Dhamma Talks in Sinhala and English on very interesting and highly educational topics. Families who were interested sharing Dhamma and the devotees sponsored generously the dhamma dana (sharing the gift of lord Buddha's teachings).

After the pandemic we continued to host our programmes onsite as well as online. Regular Saturday evening programmes have been very useful most of the time. As a result we continued most of the weeks both online and onsite. Many people joined online temple when programmes and regular services take place. Monks at the centre dedicated for those programmes and worked tirelessly to meet all the requirements. It was very challenging but it was really supportive for the community.

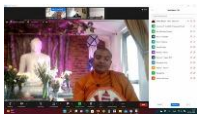
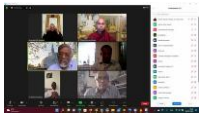
Children Programmes and Dhamma School: Every Saturday 3.30PM till 5PM

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya organized a regular programme for children on every Saturday 3.30-5PM. **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Mr Rasika Jayawardana** and **Mrs Veena Hettiarachchi** administered the teachings. All parents actively participated to support to upkeep of the programme. Children learnt meditation, homage chanting, Buddhism and general ethics.

Monks also attended Milton Keynes Vihara Dhamma School on regular Sunday evening practice sessions for childrena and addults.

Bracknell Dhamma School: Venerable monks regularly attend the Dhamma School in Bracknell and paretns and teachers do the Dhamma School regularly on Every Saturday.

Daham Sisila Programmes on Every Sunday From 5PM till 6.30PM:

Milton Keynes Vihara Community organized a series of regular Dhamma Programme on Every Sunday especially to help the people (young and adults) to come together to listen to the teachings of the Buddha and engage in a discussion. This became a very popular programme due to the engagement of the community. A large number of participants were actively attended. Our monks shared the time, effort and teachings to contribute into this and up keep of the programme. **Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero**, deputy head monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara attended as guest speaker on **21st August 2022** and **Most Venerable Kassapa Thero of Great Bretain** attended as guest speaker on **28th August 2022**. Rest the programmes were conducted by Venerable Akurala Samitha and resident monks.

Most Venerable Kothmale Kumara Kassapa Thero visited Milton Keynes Community as the guest Dhamma

Speaker from Sri Lanka on **04th March 2023**. He delivered a Talk and meditation session.

Annual Three Months Rains Retreat Opening Ceremony and Esala Full Moon Poya Day Programme - Sunday 10th July 2022

Venerable monks at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre hosted a blissful ceremony to observe the significances of Esala (July) Full Moon Poya and mark the beginning of the Annual Vassana Season on **Esala (July) Full Moon Poya Saturday 10th July 2022**. Vassana Season is known as **Annual Rains Meditation Retreat** that Theravada Monks should practice once a year for three months on Esala Full Moon Poya Day. Venerable Monks of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre observed the beginning of **annual rains three months retreat** on **Sunday 10th July 2022** respecting the advice of the Lord Buddha and in compliance with the 2600 years old tradition. Whole day programme was held online with chanting, meditation, dhamma talk and observing eight precepts. A large number of devotees joined both at vihara onsite and online. This year three months Rains Retreat (Vassana) Season was between **10th July 2022** and **22nd October 2022**. During those three months, every Saturday for 12 weeks a special programme was held to share the teachings and blessings.

This year three months retreat and kathina ceremony was sponsored by **Mrs Shiromi Kariyawasam, Mr Rosco Philomin and family; Mrs Namali Kariyawasam, Mr Thusitha Danwatte and Family; Mrs Manjula Amarasooriya and family; Miss Jeevani Jayasuriya and family; Mrs Lakshi and Mr Rajitha Weerakkodi and Family, Mrs Lakmini Samaradiwakara and Mr Gosala Kulupana and Family.** This is the **19th consecutive year Rainy Retreat** of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero observed the the three months rains retreat in this year 2022.

On that day Most Venerable Monks Chanted the First Discourse delivered By the Blessed One (The Buddha), Dhamma Chakkhapavattana Sutta together with a special blessings pooja and gave Dhamma Talks both in Sinhala & English explaining the significances of the Esala Full Moon Poya Day and Vas Aradhana (Invitation to Three Months Retreat).

Milton Keynes Vihara Esala (July) Full Moon Poya and Vas Aradhana Ceremony took place on **Saturday 09th July 2022**. Dr Nanda and Mrs Swarna De Silva and the family were the main sponsors of this year Three Months Rains Retreat at Milton Keynes Vihara.

Volunteers at the Centre: Deep Clean Project of Temple Sunday 25th June 2022.

Volunteers are always very helpful at the centre. They engage in many activities with the guidance of **Miss Padma Wijeratne** who coordinates the projects. Volunteers joined for deep clean project at the centre on **Saturday 25th September 2022**. We all at the centre greatly appreciated their contributions with lots of blessings.

Special Atavisi Sambuddha Pooja, Held on Binara Full Moon Saturday 17th September 2022

A **Special Atavisi Sambuddha Pooja** was held to mark the **Binara Full Moon Poya Day** on **Saturday 17th September 2022** at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre. This Special Pooja was sponsored by the main sponsors of this year kathina ceremony and the devotees of the centre. A large number of devotees attended the ceremony.

Binara Full Moon Poya Day Special Programme: was held on Saturday 03rd September 2022 at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Vihara with meditation, dhamma talk and dana.

House Blessings with Kathina Robe:

It is customary to take the Kathina Robe to carefully selected houses for special religious blessings. It was held at **Mrs Shiromi Kariyawasam and Mr Rosco Philomin's** house on 01st **October 2022**.

Mr & Mrs Kalyani Thennakoon, Mrs Chintani Perera, Dr Tamara & Mr Gunawardana, Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge, Mr Sanjaya Rajapaksha, Mr Godfry De Silva and few others also hosted a Kathina Robe receiving house ceremonies during the vassana season.

Mr Rajitha and Mrs Lakshi Weerakkodi and family also hosted a special pooja by having the Kathina Robe to their house inviting all the community to receiving the blessings of the Kathina Retreat on **Saturday 15th October 2022**.

Other Special Poojas During the Vassana (Rains Retreat Season):

Oxford community hosted special religious ceremony to get the community together. Our centre members live in Oxford, Didcot and Newbury area organized this. **Mr Kasun and Mrs Minoli Fernando** organized a Dhamma Programme on **10th September** 2022 and **Mrs Nilanthi and Mr Amalka** organized a community programme **on 03rd December 2022**. Few other special dhamma programmes were also held. A large number of local devotees attended.

Nikini (August) Full Poya Day Programme was held on **Saturday 13th August 2022**. Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero delivered a dhamma talk and Most Venerable Akurala Samitha thero conducted the meditation programme. The day programme was sponsored by Mrs Lakshi Weerakkodi and family.

Mother's Day Pooja: 19th March 2023: A special pooja and blessings chanting was held on **Mother's Day 19th March 2023** at the centre. It was a good relief for those who live miles away from their parents. Many found the joy by bringing their parents to the centre. This pooja, special chanting and tribute brought healing to many hearts.

Mr Dharshana Jayaratne and Mrs Harsha sponsored the evening programme by inviting his mother from Sri Lanka.

<u>The Annual Kathina Ceremony: 19th Consecutive Year (Sangha Day Community Event) Celebration held on Saturday 22nd October 2022:</u>

The Annual Kathina Ceremony is the biggest community event at the centre. It was held on **Saturday 22nd October 2022** at **Garden City**

Academy, Radburn Way, Letchworth Garden City. This was the **19th consecutive Kathina Ceremony** or community day (Sangha Day) Celebration held by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Community with the able guidance of Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero, head of the centre.

This year Kathina Ceremony was mainly sponsored by **Mrs Shiromi Kariyawasam & Mr Rosco Philomin and Family, Mrs Namal Kariyawasm & Mr Thusitha Danwatte and family. Mrs Manjaula Amarasooriya & Miss Jeevani Jayasuriya and Family. Mrs Lakshi & Mr Rajitha Weerakkodi and family. Mrs Dr. Lakmini Samaradiwakara & Mr Gosala Kulupana and family. And All the Devotees of the Buddhist Meditation Centre.** A large gathering of over 21 Venerable Monks representing Buddhist Temples in UK graced the ceremony. Over **300 (three hundred)** devotees representing cosmopolitan member families of the centre attended.

The Kathina Ceremony is the highly meritorious and significantly blissful festival in the Buddhist tradition. This Community Day Ceremony was held with the full participation of the community to mark the successful completion of the annual three months spiritual retreat observed by venerable monks residing at the monastery. During this period of three months, the members of the community took special attention to devote more time and effort to practice Lord Buddha's teaching as in Meditation, Dhamma studies, Dana Offering, Sila (Morality) Observations and blessings with Pooja chantings. Hence this three-month period was regarded as the highly blessed and most sacred spiritual season of the community.

In accordance with the 26 centuries old unrestricted Buddhist traditional lineage, Venerable Monks headed by **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha**, Head of the Centre and **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** observed this year's Three-Month Rainy Retreat on **Esala Full Moon Day** that fell on **Sunday 10th July (Esala) 2022** and successfully completed the three months on **Vap Full Moon Day** Which fell on **Saturday 09th October 2022**. Kathina Ceremony has to be held within the month from the completed full moon day to the subsequent full moon, that means before the next Full Moon Day that falls on Monday 07th November 2022. After this day this Ceremony cannot be held according to the Buddhist tradition.

This year Kathina Ceremony of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya brought many multi cultural people together as one family. Everyone inspired the happy, peaceful and uplifting atmosphere of the ceremony. The local community admired the rare experience of attractively pious cultural activities related to the ceremony such as Kathina Procession. Children of the Dhamma School put lots of effort with overwhelming enthusiasm in participation. It was a very educational and joyful opportunity for them to experience the typical Buddhist Culture.

The Kathina Procession was beautiful as it was led by the children of the dhamma school, with traditional drumming heralding a Special Statue of Lord Buddha and the Kathina Robe. Children, parents and members of the Buddhist Centre community joined carrying Buddhist flags and decorative items.

The venerable monks who were attended **Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Thero** (London Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Dr Witharandeniye Kassapa Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of Birminham Maha Vihara, Stoke On Trent Vihara and Leicester Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Maha Thero** (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Vihara), **Most Venerable Gunnapane Sumanarama Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Rakwane Sumanananda Maha Thero** (East London Lumbini Vihara), **Most Venerable Nepal Sumana Thero** (Head Monk of London Vipassana Mindfulness Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Mapalaga Soratha Maha Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Birminham Jethavana Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero** (Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon), **Most Venerable Amunugama Siri Nivasa Thero** (Resident Monk of London Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Bangladesh Dharmapriya Thero** (Resident Monk of East London Lumbini Vihara), **Venerable Thalangalle Sumedha Thero** (Birminham Buddhist Maha Vihara Temple), **Venerable Wiharagama Kusala Thero** (Acting Head Monk of Leicester Dharmasoka Buddhist Centre), **Venerable Sukhithamano Thero** (Resident Monk of London Buddhist Vihara) and **Most Venerable Munwatte Mangala Thero** (Resident monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Rathnapure Nandaloka Thero** (Resident monk of Birminham Buddhist Maha Vihara), **Most Venerable Kottawaga Dhammajothi Thero** (Resident monk of Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara), **Most Venerable Tittagalle Arunasiri Thero** (Resident monk of Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara), **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** (Resident monk of Milton Keynes Vihara and Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya and also Dutugemunu Vihara Galle Sri Lanka).

Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Thero (London Kingsbury Temple) administered the five precepts. **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero (Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon)** conducted the Buddha Pooja. **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Thero (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara)** conducted Kathina Robe offering. **Venerable Wiharagama Kusala Thero (Acting Head Monk of Leicester Dharmasoka Buddhist Centre)** did the punnanumodana (sharing of merits). **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Maha Thero (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Vihara)** dedicated the dana sanghika. **Most Venerable Dr Witharandeniya Kassapa OBE Maha Thero (Head Monk of** Birminham Maha Vihara, Stoke On Trent Vihara and Leicester Buddhist Vihara**)** delivered a

Dhamma Talk in Sinhala explaining the significances of the traditional spiritual ceremony to the modern world, and highlighted the credentials of Venerable Akurala Samitha as a rare skilful monk from whom the community can be benefited immensely. **Most Venerable Nepal Sumana (Head Monk of London Vipassana Mindfulness Meditation Centre)** delivered the English Dhamma talk to mark the beginning of the ceremony and explained the significances of the day by dedicating the Kathina Dana and commended the importance of mental health services rendered by Venerable Akurala Samitha and Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Maha Thero** (principal of Sri Rathanasara Vidyayatana, Baddegama, Galle) conducted a short sharing of merits after accepting the kathina robe as one of the resident monks who observed this year Vassana Retreat Season. All the monks chanted very special protection chanting to bring blessings to all the community.

Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted **A Special Atavisi Buddha** to invoke the merits and blessings to parents of all members of the community. Late parents of the members of the community were dearly remembered by sharing the merits.

Hamper Gift Parcels to venerable Monks were sponsored by **Members of the main sponsors.**

Gift Donations Offering to Venerable Monks were supported by all the members of the community with the main support of main sponsors.

Children of our Dhamma School actively participated with few devotional songs. Kathina Procession was held in compounds of the ceremony venue. Special thanks to teachers and parents including **Mr Rasika, Mrs Vipuli, Miss Padma** and **Mrs Malindi**. The Son of Mr and Mrs Dissanayaka, Mr Nisaja Dissanayaka sang a beautiful devotional song to the audience.

Venerable Akurala Samitha thanked everyone supported to make this year Kathina ceremony a great success. The Ceremony arrangements and hall decorations were not possible without the earnest support of **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Ms Nikki Butler, Miss Eleanor, Ms Emma Davilar, Mr Jason Richard, Miss Chamari Jayasinge, Mrs Nadee Athuraliya, Mr Udena & Mrs Nilanthi Wanniarachchi, and Mr Godfry and Mrs Sunethra De Silva**. Venerable Samitha shared heartfelt gratitude and blessings with them all.

Venerable Akurala Samitha shared the blessings with those who offered **Atapirikara**, **Robes**, Monks' gift items and other donations. Their support greatly counted for the success of the ceremony.

May the Blessings of this greatest meritorious deed fulfil, without exception the aspirations of all, and lead to the everlasting happiness *Nibbana*! May all be secure, well and happy with Noble Blessings of the Triple Gem!

Annual Kathina Ceremonies at Other Temples in UK:

Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Saturday 15th October 2022** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 16th October 2022** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

East London Lumbini Vihara hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 23rd October 2022** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 30th October 2022** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

London Buddhist Vihara Chiswick hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 30th October 2022** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended to it.

Stroke-On-Trent Buddhist Vihara Kathina Ceremony was held on **Saturday 05th November 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended the ceremony.

Leicester Dharmasoka Vihara Annual Kathina Ceremony was held on **Sunday 06th November 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended the ceremony.

Milton Keynes Vihara Annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 09th October 2022:

Under the patronage of **Venerable Akurala Samitha, Milton Keynes Vihara Community** celebrated their **annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 09th October 2022**. This was their **04th consecutive ceremony** at **Bletchley Youth Centre**, Derwent Drive, Bletchley. Over 300 (three

hundred) devotees attended the ceremony. 25 (twenty five) most venerable monks representing all the temples in the United Kingdom attended to grace the ceremony. **Dr Nanda** and **Mrs Swarna De Silva** sponsored the Annual Kathina Pinkama with the advice of Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Most Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala Nayaka Thero (Chief Prelate of Great Bretain and Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara) **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Nayaka Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dr Dedunupitiye Upananda Nayaka Thero** (London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Sukhithamano Thero** (London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Maha Thero** (London Kingsbury Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Keppitiyagoda Gunawansa Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of Birmingham Jethawana Buddhist Vihara and Liverpool Sambhodhi Vihara), **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** (Principal of Sri Rathanasara Vidyayatana, Baddegama, Galle), **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Rakwane Sumanananda Maha Thero** (East London Lumbini Vihara), **Most Venerable Rotumba Gunaratnana Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Jethavana Vihara), **Most Venerable Amunugama Siri Nivasa Thero** (resident Monk of London Kingsbury Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Tissapura Sugatharathana Thero** (deputy head monk of Liverpool Sambodhi Vihara), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero** (Head Monk of London Thames Vihara), **Most Venerable Hanwelle Gnanarathana Thero** (East London Lumbini Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kaduwela Pannathissa Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Jethavana Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Wewala Samitha Thero** (resident monk of Birmingham Jethawana Vihara), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kongaswela Piyarathana Maha Thero** (Resident Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Nepal Sumana Maha Thero** (Head monk of London Mindfulness Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre) and **Most Venerable Sister Maruta** (Head Nun of Niponsan Myahoji Japanese Temple) were attended the ceremony.

On behalf of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre, **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** and **Mr Luke Beeton** attended the ceremony and helped to make it a great success.

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Visiting Monks & Resident Monks: Most Venerale Dammala Piyananda Thero 07th March 2021 till 13th January 2024:

Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero arrived to our centre on **07th March 2021** and currently the resident monk to stay at the centre **with Most Venerable Akurala Samitha** during this year.

Celebrating Members' Special Moments:

Mr Dharshana Jayarathna celebrated his **50th Birthday on 25th May 2022** with

the family and monks. Offered dana to venerable monks.

Mr Kasup De Silva celebrated his 40th Birthday on 11th September 2022:

family and monks joined a special blessings programme.

Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe celebrated her **88 birthday on 13th October 2022**. Special

blessings programme was held at her house.

Late Mrs Rathnawalie Dep Birthday Celebration on 30th December 2022: Members

of the centre organized a special blessing ceremony and pooja with the participation of Late Mrs Rathnawalie Dep's family to commorate her life on her **birthday 30th December 2022**.

Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero's Birthday on 24th January 2023: **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** is the head monk of

London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre. He helps our spiritual and social activities a lot. Venerable Monks at the centre and the community are very grateful of his contributions. We remembered him on his birthday **24th January 2023** by doing a special pooja and invoke the blessings to him.

Mr Glenn Everard celebrated his 52nd Birthday on 25th January 2023: Mr

Glenn Everard was a long standing dedicated member of the centre. He celebrated his very **special 52nd birthday** in the centre. Centre community organized a special pooja to invoke blessings to him on his 52nd birthday on **25th January 2023**.

Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne celebrated her Birthday on 25th January 2023:

Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne has been a long standing member and also holds responsible positions like

trustee and secretary at the centre. She contributed her time, effort and financial support for the temple extensively. Everyone at the centre is extremely grateful for her dedication to upkeep the centre. Resident Monks and the community organized **a special blessings pooja chanting online on 06th February 2023** to invoke blessings to **Miss**

Padmalatha Wijeratne. Dana ceremony was held at her resident **on 25th January 2023** with the participation of **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara) and **Most Venerable U Sumangala** (Resident Monk of New Castle) and **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero**. A large number of members of the centre joined online and at house to the pooja and dana.

Miss Methushi Wijewardhana Celebrated her birthday on **26th January 2023**. **Mrs Nilanka Hettiarachchi** and **Mr Sameera Wijewardhana** hosted an annual ceremony on their daughter's birthday to do the blessings with the local community in Prexton and also to do the house blessings. They also shared the merits with Mrs Piyaseeli Pagoda Arachchi and **Mr Lional Gamini Wijewardhane** on **18th February 2023**.

Mrs Niranjala Perera celebrated her 80th Birthday with special dhamma dana Saturday Evening programme on **25th February 2023**.

Mr Brixcious Anthony Hettiarachchi celebrated his 52nd Birthday on 12th March 2023. He is one of the main and dedicated supporters of the centre. A special pooja was held with the friends and family on 12th March 2023 at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre.

Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero celebrated his 41st Birthday on 24th March 2023. A special pooja was held at the centre and all the members appreciated his arrival to stay as a resident monk for two years.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's 51st Birthday - 25th March 2023: Centre community took the privilege to pay tribute to the outstanding work of **Venerable Akurala Samitha on his 51st birthday** by organizing **a special dana** (food offering to monks) **ceremony** and **guest speakers talks and Bodhi pooja blessings** on **25th March 2023**. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** organized the event. A large gathering of over 06 monks representing 4 temples in UK attended to grace the ceremony. **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (Head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation

Centre) gave a Sinhala Dhamma talk, **Most Venerable Professor Medagampitiye Wijithadhamma Thero** (University of Sri Jayewardenepura Sri Lanka) delivered a talk. **Dr. Elliot Cohen**, Senior Lecturer Leeds Beckett University School of Social Sciences - Psychotherapist, Mindfulness Teacher & Member of Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Academy delivered a talk. **Dr Kamal Witharana** (MD, MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI) (Medical Doctor in Public Health & Clinical Lecturer in UK; Divisional Director of Health Service in Sri Lanka; Associate Member of Positive Psychology Guild UK, Member of Pali Text Society & Mindfulness Meditation Researcher & Teacher) delivered a talk. **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** (Principal Sri Rathanasara Vidyayathana Piriven Baddegama Galle, Sri Lanka) and **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Centre) conducted the pooja and blessings. Children of the Dhamma School gave tribute presentations. Among them Seth Katuwawala, Sanketh Nissanka, Suhas Rodrigo, Thisan Samarakoon gave tribute presentations on behalf of all the children. Mr Manohar Summan, Mr Mark Brumwell, Ms Nicky Brass and Mrs Caroline Whitelock gave tribute presentations on behalf of all the members of the meditation community and temple members.

Mrs Brigitta Monore came to attend from Hungary. **Mr. Godfry**, **Mrs Sunethra De Silva**, **Mrs Nikki Butler**, **Mrs Emma Davilar**, **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe, Mrs Nadika Athuraliya**, also helped the programme and the ceremony. A large number of over 300 devotees joined the special blessings.

Mrs Anuradha Madhadhuwage and members in Sri Lanka also made a special food parcel distribution to needy families in Sri Lankal to bless Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Chaplaincy Team: We have a team of chapains at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. They are both monks and lay members. Miss Padma Wijeratne administers them. They regularly attend hospitals, schools, hospices and other community organizations to help with their spiritual and meditation needs.

Interfaith Activities by the Centre and NHS Services:

Our centre has been actively participating local and national interfaith groups and make necessary contributions to be part of the interfaith relations. Venerable Akurala Samitha continues to be dedicated member of North Herts Interfaith Forum and Hertfordshire Faith Leaders Forum.

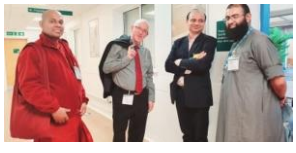
Venerable Akurala Samitha and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne another chaplains** regularly attend **East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust Lister Hospital**, **QE II Hospital in Welwyn Garden City**, and **Mount Vernon Cancer Hospital in London Northwood** as a part of chaplain team. Venerable Akurala Samitha attends monthly meetings and hosts a weekly meditation sessions in addition to visiting the patients for blessings.

Lister Hospital arranged some video recording to help the NHS staff and volunteers with customs, religious rights and rituals for end of life patients and deceased patients. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended to record the Buddhist part of it on **08th of June 2022 at Lister Hospital**.

NHS Staff Award 2022 Ceremony 07th July 2022: This year lister hospital made over 230 entries to the staff award. Out of those, 10 were short listed as finalists. Our team of NHS Chaplains was one of the 10 finalists. It is a great achievement to recognize the work we do in the NHS. The award night took place at **Twin Bury Farm in Welwyn on Thursday 07th July 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended the award ceremony.

NHS Seminar for Spirituality on 27th July 2022: A seminar was held for MA students at NHS Hospital. The theme was how might chaplains better respond to the distinctive spiritual and religious needs of dialysis patients. **Venerable Akurala Samitha delivered a talk on Buddhist** perspective on **Kidney disease and how mindfulness meditation** and Buddhist teachings can help patients as well as staff who treat kidney patients and also manage with dialysis patients. Seminar took place at **Lister Hospital on 27th July 2022**.

Bishops Wood Hospital: On 18th October 2022, a special session was held to introduce different faith services at Bishops Wood Hospital. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended this CPD counted seminar. **Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk on Spiritual Services** within Buddhism.



General meeting of the Chaplaincy (interfaith) team was held on 26th October 2022 at Sister Lorita's house and her Chapel. **Brother John O'Neill**, team lead of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Chaplain of East and North Herts NHS Trust, appreciated the dedicated the work done by Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha at Lister Hospital at a meeting held.

Remembrance Day Interfaith Prayers: 11th November 2022

All faith groups joined for a service at Lister Hospital to observe a minutes silence with all the members of the public to remember the war victims and Heros. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne joined on behalf of the centre and offered prayers from Buddhist Tradition.

Inter-faith meeting and prayers by the chaplaincy group at Lister Hospital on 07th December 2022

Miss Padma Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha have been attending various kinds of interfaith activities locally and nationally. They host weekly meditation programmes and support important occations with Buddhist blessings, meditation and chanting. Final meeting for 2022 was held at Lister Hospital Chapel to review the work and plan for the future.

Inter-faith Volunteers appreciation meeting and joint prayers on 14th December 2022

Special event is organized to get together all the volunteers of the chaplaincy group. Prayers and meditation were offered by all different groups. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne offered a guided mindfulness meditation and chanting of blessings. Volunteers support is deeply appreciated at the end of the year.

Lister Hospital celebrated Buddhist Parinirvana Day on 15th February 2023

Miss Padma Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted blessing programme with mindfulness meditation sessions to mark the parinirvana day at Lister Hospital on 15th February 2023.

Ceremony to appoint the New Vicar at Woburn Sand Church: 14th March 2023:

On behalf of the centre, Miss Padma Wijeratne participated to the special service of Reverend Dr Rachel to appoint as the vicar of Woburn sand church on Tuesday 14th March 2023

Hertfordshire Faith Leaders' Forum: 17th March 2023

Revered Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended online meeting and get together forum of Hertfordshire Faith Leaders' on 17th March 2023. Faith Covenent is an umbrella body of herts faith leaders. Hertfordshire Bishop Jane Mainwaring also joined.

Home Visits, Nursing Home Visits and Hospital Visits By the Centre:

Home visits, Hospital Visits and Nursing Home Visits are a very active part of the centre. Venerable Monks and lay chaplains do the regular visits to homes, nursing homes and

hospital for spiritual and cultural needs. This is something they really appreciate. Few of those visits are included below.

Dr Sharmala Bandaranayaka and Dr Anura Liyange and family in **Welingbarough** hosted a home visit blessing on **14th May 2022** with the participation of their friends.

Mr Godfry and Mrs Sunethra and family in **Hatfiried** hosted a dana and blessings ceremony at their house with the participation of their local communities on 27th May 2022

Dr Anura Herath and Mrs Chandani and family in **Boston** hosted a dana ceremony to bless their new home and all the family and friends on 03rd June 2022 with the participation of their local community.

Mr Sujeewa and Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge in **Stratford-Upon-Avon** and family hosted a special blessings ceremony at their house on **27th June 2022** with the participation of large number of family and friend.

Mrs Rashmi Adikari and family in **London** hosted a dana and chanting programme in memory of their parents with the gathering of large number of their family and friends on 29th June 2022.

Mrs Caroline Whitelock and Mr Paul and family hosted a blessing at their home in **Roxton** by inviting Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne on 03th June 2022.

Miss Padma Wijeratne together with friends hosted a dana and blessings ceremony at her home in **Letchworth** on 30th June 2022.

Mr Samuel Heaps hosted a special blessings ceremony at his place in **Stevenage** to bless his new Meditation and Shrine room on 22nd July 2022.

Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe organized a blessings ceremony in her home in **Northampton** with the participation of her family and friends on 23rd July 2022.

Ms Mary Moncaster: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratna visited Mary Moncaster on **12th August 2022** at **Osbourne Court Care Home** and support her with blessings and spiritual company.

Mrs Nawamali Ranathunga: Dr M B Ranathunga and family organized a blessings ceremony on **09th August 2022** at their home in **Stockport, Manchester** to do a special blessing to Mrs Nawamalie Ranathunga who was in end of life. Mr Janaka Alahapperuma also joined. Our monks visited the house and did a blessing. It made a big impact on her to live much longer than hospital predicted. Family and friends deeply appreciated the visit and service.

Mr Des Raj and Mrs Pushpa hosted a special blessings ceremony in **Letchworth** on **01st September 2022** to bless the house and family. They wanted to bless the new baby too.

Mrs Nisansala Dharmaratne and Mr Nishendra Dissanayaka hosted a blessings programme at their house for the community on **11th September 2022**. **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda and Venerable Nepal Sumana Thero** also joined the house blessings.

Mrs Sandya De Silva in **Dartford** hosted a dana and blessings chanting ceremony in memory of Mr Upali Rohith De Silva on **26th October 2022**.

Mr Chathura and Mrs Thushara Samarasinghe hosted a dana ceremony at their house on **26th November 2022** and **Mrs Ramya Wijewardana and Mr Dharshana Mohandiramge** organized a Dhamma Programme at their house on the same day.

Dr Shantha Godagama and Mrs Ranji Godagama organized a dana ceremony at **London Buddhist Vihara** in memory of parents on **18th December 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and delivered a dhamma talk.

Dr Nanda and Mrs Swarna De Silva in **Milton Keynes** hosted a special dana and blessings with the participation of the family and frend on **24th December 2022** in memory of their late son.

Professor Arosha Bandara and family hosted a dana ceremony at home in **Northampton** on **27th December 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and delivered a dhamma talk.

Mr Srilank Wickramarathna and Mrs Nadee and family hosted a dana ceremony at home on **31st December 2022** and facilitate the community to share the blessings of the Dhamma. It was significant as their father was invited from Sri Lanka to have the memorial ceremony for mother and also to warm new home with blessings.

Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi and Mrs Veena and family hosted a special ceremony with dana, dhamma talk and blessings chanting on **03rd January 2023**. A large number of devotees in **Bracknell** participated for the Dhamma Programme. This ceremony was done in memory of loving mother and also good friend of our centre **Mrs Piyaseeli Pagoda Arachchi** to mark the 3rd months remembrance merits transfer.

Mr Sanjaya and Mrs Madhu hosted their annual dhamma and dana programme at their residence at **Hatfield** on **07th January 2023**. Large number of friends and members of the community participated the programme. Seven monks attended.

Mr Indunil Rajapaksha and Mrs Nadeeka hosted a dana and chanting programme at their home in **Milton Keynes** on **10th January 2023**.

Ms Nikki Butler hosted the chanting and blessings programme at home in **Luton** on **10th** **January 2023**. Miss Padma Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha also attended.

Mrs Rekha Kasthuriarachchi hosted a dana at home in **Watford** on **14th January 2023**. Large number of community in that area attended.

Mrs Niranjala Perera hosted a special Dhamma programme with dana and blessings on **26th** **February 2023** at **Kingsbury Temple**. Large number of devotees attended.

Providence Court Quantum Care Nurisng Home Baldock at Ms Mary Moncaster: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Padma

Wijeratne visited on **Friday 10th March 2023 quantum Care Nursing Home Providence Court at Baldock**. To see **Ms Mary Moncaster**. She was a Buddhist and wanted to have some blessings.

Luton and Dunstable Hospital: Mr Andrew Dep was admitted to Luton and Dunstable Hospital for few checks and an operation. Miss Padma Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha visited to do some blessings **on 17th March 2023**. It was a really helpful as not many visitors are allowed due to pandemic situation.

Year End Blessings: Christmas Blessings programme on 24th December 2022: We hosted an online and onsite blessings and meditation programme to share spiritual blessings on Christmas. A good number of people joined the online as well as at the centre session.

2023 Happy New Year Blessings: A Special Atavisi Buddha Pooja to welcome the New Year was held on 1st January 2023

The Community of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya organised Atavisi Buddha Pooja Special Blessings ceremony on **Sunday 01st January 2023** to share the blessings with all on the dawn of the **New Year 2023**. All members and devotees attended both online and onsite.

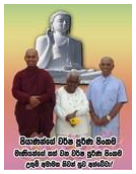
The blessings programmes were sponsored by all the members. Special sponsorships were extended by **Dr Anura Herath**, **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Mr Ram Murthi Summan and Mrs Hasintha Motamure.** A large number of devotees gathered at the centre to **start the New Year 2023 with Blessings**. A large number of devotees joined the **evening Atavisi Buddha Pooja**. This programme was sponsored mainly by devotees from Letchworth, Milton Keynes and Bracknell communities. **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** conducted the New Year Day Blessings on pooja.

Milton Keynes Vihara also held a special blessings pooja for the New Year. A large number of devotees attended to the centre in Milton Keynes to get the blessings at the dawn of the **New Year 2023**.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's Father's (05-05-1929 | 27-01-2022) First Death Anniversary 27th January 2023:

Venerable Akurala Samitha's Mother's (20-02-1936 | 02-03-2016) 07th Year Death Anniversary on 17th February 2023

Special Dana ceremony was held in Sri Lanka to mark the **03rd Month of passing** of the beloved father of Venerable Akurala Samitha on **26th April 2022**. **Venerable Sigiriye Indravansa Thero** did the memorial Dhamma Talk on **25th April 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and devotees of the centre attended from UK as Venerable Akurala Samitha came from Sri Lanka few months ago after participating the funeral and 07th Day dana. **Venerable Akurala Samitha's mother's 06th Year Remembrance** also held at the same time. 25 Buddhist Monks from local Buddhist centres attended in Sri Lanka. Venerable Akurala Samitha also held a remembrance ceremony in **the United Kingdom at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya** on **27th April 2023** to transfer merits to parents.



17th February 2023, Special Dana Ceremony and chanting was held in **Sri Lanka and UK** in memory of parents of Venerable Akurala Samitha to mark the **1st Year Remembrance Anniversary** of beloved father **Mr. Siripala De Silva** and **07th Year Remembrance Anniversary** of beloved mother **Mrs Dedimuni Dasawathi Mendis** of Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Special Tribute to Our Devoted and Dedicated Member of the Centre: Mrs Rathnawalie Dep (30-12-1935 and 16-07-2021):

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep was a founder member and long standing trustee of the centre. From the beginning till to the last date she took the position of Honourable Secretary and rendered yeoman service to the centre and the community. A special Dana Ceremony and Merits Sharing were held at the Centre to mark the **01st Death Anniversary on 17th July 2022**.

Special Tribute to Our Devoted and Dedicated Members of the Centre: Mr Frederick Charles Day (26-07-1935 and 15-10-2021):

Mr Frederick (fondly known as Fredie) was born on **26th July 1935** in Letchworth Garden City. He became a good friend of Venerable Bhante Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratne and all the members of the centre. He always liked what we did in the local community and deeply appreciate about them. He also benefited from our meditation, chanting and other welfare services. He maintained a good relationship with few charities in Nepal, India and Malaysia.

Venerale Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended to him regularly at his residence and also in hospital to look after his welfare and did blessings. He greatly appreciated the blessings and meditation and emotional support given to him. He passed away on **15th October 2021** at Lister Hospital. A special ceremony was held on **Saturday 15th October 2022** at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre to mark his first year remembrance merits transfer.

Most Venerable Bhikkhu Assaji Maha Thera (1950 – 09-10-2022): He was a long standing visiting monk who supported all centre religious, cultural and social activities. He passed away on Vap Full Moon Poya **Sunday 09th October 2022** at **London Croydon Hospital**. His body was donated to Medical School. He is a very humble, wise, kind, very skilful and highly respected Buddhist Monk who spent over 30 years in UK and

extended a great service to monks, temples and the communities in UK, Sri Lanka and many parts of the world. He spent his whole life very generously in service especially to children, adults and monastics without much attention even to his health. He is a great, resourceful and active Dhammaduta Bhikkhu (Missionary Monk). It is a great loss of Sambuddha Sasana and all of us. We all are indebted to his life and service. May he attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!

Special funeral service was held at **London Thames Vihara** on **13th October 2022** with a large number devotees and over 19 Venerable Monks representing all the temples in UK.

Most Venerable Aggamahapanditha Galayaye Piyadassi (28th June 1947 - 19th December 2022) Adhikarana Sanghanayaka (Chief Prelate of Judiciary) Maha Thero MBE. Head monk of Sri Saddhathissa International Buddhist Centre, Kingsbury Temple and the Director of The World Buddhist Foundation.

Head Monk of Kingsbury Temple passed away at the age of 76. He is the founder patron of our Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. He was not feeling well and admitted to the hospital. **Venerable Akurala Samitha**, **Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thero** and **Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** visited London Stanmore Hospital and did some blessings on **16th December 2022**.

Aggamaha Panditha The Most Venerable Galayaye Piyadassi MBE Nayaka Thero. The Chief Prelate (Sanghanayake) of Judiciary in the United Kingdom and Chief Incumbent of Sri Saddhatissa International Buddhist Centre, Kingsbury London, Founder of The World Buddhist Foundation and The Honourable Patron of Sri Lanka Sangha Sabha of United Kingdom very peacefully passed away on **Monday 19th December 2022**. Funeral took place on **Saturday 31st December 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha, Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended the funeral. Most Venerable Galayaye Piyadassi Nayaka Thero has rendered a yeoman service to the international community based in London, United Kingdom. We will always his remember the incomparable service and boundless humanity. **May the Most Venerable Galayaye Piyadassi Nayaka Thero Attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!**

Third Months dana was held at London Kingsbury Sri Saddhathissa International Buddhist Centre in memory of Most Venerable Aggamaha Panditha Galayaye Piyadassi Nayaka Thera on **Sunday 19th March 2023**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended.

Full Moon Day and Monthly Retreat Sessions: 16th April 2022

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya hosts regularly a monthly programme with mindfulness meditation retreat on Full Moon Day of the month. A day programme was held to mark the **Bak (April) Full Moon Poya Day** on **Saturday 16th April 2022**. Programmes were continued on the following months too. A large number of members attended online and onsite with meditation, pooja, homage blessings and dhamma talks.

Vap (October) Full Moon Poya Day was on **Saturday 08th October 2022**, Our centre celebrated the October full moon poya day with chanting blessings.

November (ILL) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Saturday 05th November 2022** at the centre.

Uduvap (December) Full Moon Poya was on **Saturday 07th December 2022**. Centre organized a year end merits sharing pooja.

Duruth (January) Full Moon Poya Day: Saturday 07th January 2023: Duruthu Poya Full Moon Day is the first full moon poya day of the New Year. Centre organized a special dhamma discussion, meditation session and a chanting of protection blessings Bodhi pooja on **Saturday 07th January 2023** to mark the Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day. A large number of devotees joined online and onsite to the programme.

Navam (February) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Sunday 05th February 2023**. This was sponsored by (1). **Miss Padma Wijeratne and Family**; to mark the 60th Birthday and transfer merits to parents.

Madin (March) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Saturday 04th March 2023**. This

programme was sponsored by Mrs Niranjala Perera and family to share blessings wishing a happy 80th Birthday to Mrs Niranjala Perera. Mrs Rosy and Mr Victor and family also joined to sponsor the programme.

School Children Visit The Buddhist Centre for 2022/2023:

On 31st October 2022, **The Moss Bury Primary School, Webb Rise, Stevenage** held one

hour session with Miss Padma Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha. 90 children attended from Years 5 & 6 (aged 9-11). They learn Buddhism for the curriculum. They were delighted to learn Buddhist Philosophy, Meditation and life of Buddha. Mr Joe Henley, Deputy Head Teacher organized it.

Nursing Home Visit:

Vising nursing homes and providing spiritual care is one of the activities we deliver from our centre**. Venerable Akurala Samitha** and **Miss Padma Wijeratne** visited **Quantum Care Nursing Home Providence Court at Baldock** on **Friday 10th March 2023** to see **Ms Mary Moncaster**. She was a Buddhist and wanted to have some blessings on her birthday. She was admitted to the nursing home recently and struggling a lot emotionally. She was very grateful for our visit and overall support she gets from our centre.

Training & Higher Education Programmes for Members of the Organization:

Basic Safeguarding training was held on **Tuesday 28th March 2023**. It was delivered by **Mrs Irem Syed**. It was organized by **Education, Learning and Inclusion Milton Keynes City Council**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended.

Graduation Ceremony: London School of Management Education: 06th May 2022.

Venerable Akurala Samitha and **Miss Padma Wijeratne** completed Diploma In Education course and completed with distinctions. The Graduation ceremony was held on **06th May 2022**. **Mr Sam Tarry**, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom. Shadow Minister (Transport) was the guest of honour. **Venerable Akurala Samitha delivered** the speech on behalf of the students. Both Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne achieved special awards for their outstanding contributions during the academic year.

Sri Lankan Independent Day was celebrated on Saturday 04th February 2023:

Sri Lankan National Day is on **04th February**. Centre community celebrated the **Sri Lankan Independence Day** on Saturday **04th February 2023** and commemorates the **75th Anniversary** for being an independent republic. In 1948 Sri Lanka received its sovereignty from **Great Britain**. Our centre organized a special pooja blessing to bring all Sri Lankan together and celebrated their cultural and patriotic values. Dhamma school children made wonderful presentations to reflect the rich knowledge about the subject. It was a highly educational programme. **Mr Udena Wanniarachchi and Mrs Nilanthi** and family sponsored the day programme in memory of their late mother.

New Round up 2022-2023:

Venerable Akurala Samitha attended few events, extending Our Services and Valuable Contributions of Venerable Akurala Samitha to other temples and organizations in UK.

- **On 08th April 2022 Malaysian Community of the Centre** celebrated all souls day. Large number of deovtees attended and they took the opportunity to remember all departed relatives and friends.

- **On 24th April 2022** Most Venerable Akurala Samitha attended India House (Embassy) In London for a Vesak Festival organized by the Indian Buddhist Community. Over 20 monks attended representing number of temples in UK.

- **15th May 2022 Sai Centre in Bedford** Celebrated Vesak Sambuddha Jayanthi with participation of their members. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and delivered a talk.

- **15th May 2022 Milton Keynes Vihara celebrated Vesak Buddha Day** and Venerable Monks at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya conducted the programme. A large number of devotees attended.

- 15th May 2022 Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrated at the centre and special pooja was held to invoke the blessings.

- **22nd May 2022: Friends of our Charity in Sri Lanka**, Mrs Lakshmi De Silva and Mr. Pathmanathan made a visit to our centre and also visit Niponsan Myohoji Japanese Temple in Milton Keynes and Milton Kynes vihara.

- **29th May 2022: Vesak Buddha Day Celebration 2566** oranzied by **Global Ambedkarite Convention**. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the ceremony and gave a talk.

- **07th June 2022 Master Sam Abrams** visited the centre with his father Mr. Joe Abrams and sister to discuss mindfulness Meditation, Buddhism and also possibly doing some volunteering work at the centre to help and learn about the religion and culture as part of Duke of Edinburgh Award.

- **27th June 2022: Kinsbury Temple Vesak Pandol (Thorana).** Venerable Akurala Samitha and few members visited the Thorana (Pandol) at Kingsbury Temple.

- **17th July 2022 Thames Buddhist Vihara 41st Anniversary:** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended with Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero to the whole night pirith chanting and following day dana ceremony.

- **06th August 2022 Hiroshima Day Lanterns 77th Remembrance:** Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero attended annual **Hiroshima Day Ceremony and floating of candle-lit Laterns of Willen Lake**, organized by Nipponzan Myohoji Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda Buddhist Temple, Willen Lake Milton Keynes. Mr David Rennie, Mrs Astrid Ubas, Rev Akurala Samitha, Rev. Paul Smith, Imam Fazle Khundkar, Mrs Lynda Gilbert, Nagase Shonin sama, Mrs Debbie Brock DL High Sheriff of Bucks, Councillor Amanda Marlow, Mayor of Milton Keynes, Jake Lomax (young practitioner), Tony Kempster (sing) delivered speeches. The ceremony seeks to reflect on the horrors of war in an atomic age, to remember those who have died, and to pray together for peace and harmony between all people and nations.

- **22nd August 2022 Late Reverend Handa Shoni's 16th death anniversary remembrance merits transfer ceremony** was held at Japanese Peace Pagoda Milton Keynes. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended for the ceremony and the dana.

- **03rd September 2022: Yoga Sharing Garden Party** organized by **Josette** at her home in **Bromham**. Bhante Samitha Akurala did a Mindfulness Meditation Session and discussion. Glenn and Padma also attended.

- **07th September 2022: Sepcial Pooja to make the first reading** to baby Harin, son of Mr Indrajith and Mrs Anoja Dissanayake. Pooja and auspicious reading was done by Venerable Akurala Samitha.

- **10th September 2022: Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre** held a Special Dhamma Talk on memory of Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thero to mark his **50th Monkhood Anniversary**. Venerable Akurala Samitha delivered the talk and pooja.

- **16th September 2022: Cambridge Buddhist Community visit.** Mr David Hall, Mrs. Rachael and Dr Phung Ly's wife visited the centre to discuss some programmes in Cambridge. They attended a meditation and chanting session.

- **17th September 2022: Lister Hospital Special Service for H. E. Queen.** Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended.

- **18th September 2022: A special Civic Commemoration Service** Marking the death of **Her late majesty Qeen Elizabeth II** held on Sunday 18th September 2022 at **St Mary's Church Hitchin.** Rev Charmaine Sabey-Corkindale organized it. Professor Sir Tim Wilson, MP Mr Bim Afolami, Ven Dr Jane Mainwaring, Archdeacon of St Albans and few other councillors were attended. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended with Miss Padma Wijeratne and gave talk and did a short prayer.

- **18th September 2022 London Vihara 158th Birthday Day of Anagarika**

Dharmapala The Founder of London Buddhist Vihara & 96th Anniversary of The London Buddhist Vihara Celebrated Sunday 18th September 2022. A Memorial lecture, and paritta chanting was held at the Vihara on Sunday 18th September 2022. The programme commenced with garlanding the bust of Anagarika Dharmapala at the Vihara, by the **Deputy High Commissioner of the Sri Lanka High Commission in the UK**. The Memorial Lecture on the topic **"Citizen's responsibility to society: A revisit to Anagarika Dharmapala's life and service"** was delivered by **Most Venerable Dr Dedunupitiye Upananda Nayaka Thero (USA)**. Chanting of paritta was led by twelve senior monks from a number of Buddhist temples in England. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** attended the ceremony. Maha Paritta Chanting and following day morning dana was held to transfer of merits to Anagarika Dharmapala.

- **19th September 2022: Her Excellency The Queen Elizabeth II's funeral** took place

on 19th September 2022. Members of the community together with venerable monks observed the day at the centre. May she attain supreme bliss of nibbana!

- **25th September 2022: Liverpool Sri Sambodhi Viharaya.** Special Dhamma Talk

was held during the Vassana Season. Venerable Akurala Samitha thero attended and delivered. Most Venerable Kahapola Sugatharatha Thero organized the programme.

- **15th October 2022: Most Venerable Nepal Sumana Thero**, head monk of Hendon

Mindfulness Meditation Centre held a special dana Ceremony to mark the 01st Year Remembrance merits transfer in loving memory of his father **Late Mr Chandra Bahadur Nakarmi at Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, Hendon**. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and gave a dhamma talk.

- **20th October 2022: Methaliya Mohotty's charity work** appreciated by Venerable

Akurala Samitha. **Methaliya raised 126.2 kilos of food to the local food bank**. Her good work was recognized by Tescos and awarded by Mayoral Certificate. Methaliya is a student of Dhamma School and Venerable Akurala Samitha appreciated her actions at the Dhamma School assembly.

- **29th October 2022: Mr Gaurov and Mrs Priya Saroye** wedding took place at Fairmont Windsor Park, Bishopsgate Road, Egham. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the Buddhist Blessings Ceremony.

- **30th October 2022: Most Venerable Witharandeniye Nanda Thero** visited Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya and attended few ceremoneies.

- **01st November 2022: Haloveen Day** celebrated by the children of the centre.

- **25th November 2022: Malaysian Community** Special Programme was held at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya to share blessings to all.

- **07th December 2022**: Venerable Akurala Samitha attended **Christmas light opening** **ceremonies**.

- **08th January 2023 Swindon Tribute Pooja to Parents: Mr Sampath and Mrs Ama** **Nissanka** organized a public ceremony to bring all the children together to host a tribute to parents. This was held at **Purton Village Hall**, Station Road, Purtton in **Swindon** on **Sunday 08th January 2023**. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** conducted the programme. **Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** also attended. Over 300 people attended. Hundreds of children lined up in front of their parents to share their respect and gratitude. It was a very moving programme.

- **03rd February 2023: Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva Graduation Ceremony.** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the graduation ceremony of Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva. He is supported by our community projects. He completed his degree course at University of Westminister London at College of Design, Creason and Digital Industries.

- **11th February 2023: Dhamma Talk By Professor Most Venerable Galkande** **Dhammananda Maha Thero at London Buddhist Vihara**. Discussion and talk was on Religion, Right & Reconciliation. Venerable Akurala Samitha also attended.

- **25th February 2023: Musical Stage Drama based on Patachara Story**. Arunalu Art Productions A Dance School based in Leicester is a school of Sri Lankan Traditional Dance, Drama and Drumming. On Saturday 25th February 2023

they hosted a Musical Stage drama based on a pupular Buddhist Story named Patachara. It was held **The Arts Centre, Hounslow**. The Show has 13 songs. Famous, award winning, senior lecturer **Prasanajith Abeysuriya** narrated along with his son award winning actor. **Mr. Maduka Ferdinand** (Head Teacher of Arunalu Art Productions) written it and **Mr Aruna Shantha Kotawella** (Head of Arunalu Art Productions) produced it. Venerable Akurala Samitha, Venerable Dammala Piyananda and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended it.

- **04th March 2023: British Sri Lankan UK organization** organized a fund raising musical event with the participation of renowned guest musician from Sri Lanka **Mr Ishak Mohiden Beg in Lodnon**. Venerable Monks and temple community participated and supported the event.

Obituaries:

- **15th April 2022: Mr. Thushara Ranasinghe (05/08/1971 – 15/04/2022):** Long standing good friend of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre passed away with a short term health condition. Venerable Monks from our centre conducted a special merits transfer service on 16th April 2022 and funeral took place on 22nd April 2022.

- **17th April 2022: Mr Jack Daniel Elden Chahal:** (22 Year old) passed away in a fatal car crash in Gronant in North Wales. His family in Bedford are members of our Buddhist Centre. Venerable Monks from our Buddhist Centre attended the funeral and conducted the service on 09th May 2022.

- **21st May 2022:** Dr Ms Laura Woodward's father **Mr Joe Woodward** passed away in Ireland. Special service was held at our centre in rememberance of him.

- **16th June 2022: Mrs. Kalyani Princey Perera: (12th April 1926 – 16th June 2022)** was a long standing member of the Buddhist Centre. Funeral was held on Thursday 07th July 2022 at Chilterns Crematorim, Hamden Chapel Amersham.

- **28th June 2022: Mrs Suneeta Chahal** (49 Years Old) passed away and funeral was held on 12th July 2022 at Denbighshire Memorial Park & Crematorium. Buddhist Ceremony was conducted by venerable monks at our centre.

- **12th July 2022: North Wales Funeral.** Family friend of Mr Ram Pal Rahi passed away in North Wales. Venerable Monks conducted the funeral.

- **12th July 2022: Mr Mariampillai Philomin:** Father of Roscoe and father in law of Shiromi passed away in Harrow and Venerable monks attended the funeral.

- **19th July 2022: Mrs Anu Grewal:** A Good friend of our centre who lived in Milton Keynes passed away and venerable monks attended the funeral and did a merit transfer.

- **28th July 2022: Mr Ananda Bandaranayaka (11-02-1935 till 08-08-2022):** Long standing member of the community who did a great service to Sri Lanka. Venerable Monk attended the funeral and the Bana serve.

- **31st October 2022: Mr Lional Wjewardhana:** Father of Mr Sameera passed away in Preston. They are very close devotees of the centre. Funeral was done by Venerable monks.

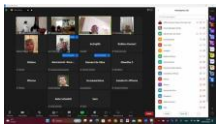
- **21st October 2022: Mr Asoka Santha Pathirage: (01-10-1937 till 21-10-2022):** was a long standing member of the centre. Venerable Monks attended the funeral on 17th November 2022.

- **15th November 2022: Mr Gayan Hettiarachchi** funeral was done by Venerable monks.

- **26th December 2022: Mr Robolge Padma Sumana Lenora:** (10-11-1932 till 26-12- 2022) Brother of Mrs Rathnawalie Dep passed away in Sri Lanka. Venerable monks held a merits transfer and remembrance service on funeral day 27th December 2022.

- **04th January 2023: Mr Peter Anthony Hart (07-10-1940 till 04-01-2023):** Father of Mrs Sue Herts passed away and he was a good friend of the centre. Venerable monks conducted a merits transfer remembrance service at the centre.

- **02nd March 2023: Dinishi Randeniya** passed away on 02nd March 2023 and funeral was on 08th March 2023 at Luton Cremotorium at The Vale, Butterfield Green Luton. Worked as a specialist nurse in molecular biology at Lister Hospital.

- **09th March 2023: Mrs Sheela De Silva (1923-12-31 - 2023-03-09)** passed aways at  the age of 99.5 on 09th March 2023 at her residence in Colombo. She is Dr Ajit De Silva's mother. We held online service and dana that was held on thursday 16th March 2023.

- **11th March 2023: Mrs Tulin Kanakarathna Jayawardana** passed away on 11th March 2023 at the age 79. She was born and brought up in Akurala and lived in Colombo. She is the mother of Mrs Manthi Nadeera and a good friend of temple. In memory of her to transfer merits, bana ceremony was held at

Penkhull Village Hall, Trent Valley Road, in Stroke-on-Trent on Saturday 18th March 2023.

- **26th March 2023: Mr Paul Bodhipala Bohitige** (25th October 1937 - 26th March 2023). Venerable monks visited him in hospital and home and supported with his end of life. His funeral took place on 21st April 2023 at West Herts Crematorium, Watford with the presence of monk.

- **26th March 2023: Dr Nathan Gunapalan Vamathevan:** Venerable monks attended a service held at his home in St Albans.

- **29th March 2023: Mrs Doreen Dias Bandaranayake:** loving mother of Mrs Dr Sharmela Bandaranayake passed away in Sri Lanka. Monks did a service at the temple to transfer merits.

Mindfulness Meditation Programmes:

Lister Hospital Mindfulness Meditation Programmes: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne visit **Lister Hospital East & North Herts NHS Trust** to do regular weekly mindfulness meditation sessions. Venerable Akurala Samitha trained staff and patient and facilitates drop in sessions. Every Thursday 5-6PM regular drop in mindfulness session takes place at the hospital.

Mindfulness Webinars hosted by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya:

Our Centre organized regular webinars to bring professionals, scholars and wellbeing practitioners together to share the knowledge. It was a great support for the community.

Webinar on Saturday 04th March 2023 on "Rebirth is the Truth:" By Mr Madawala Hemananda BSc (Est.Man.) FRICS: Author of Nature and Buddhism, Quantum Theory and Buddhism, Emptiness Natural Selection and Buddhism, The Power of Reality (The Buddha Used) We are our Minds Not our Brains – The Buddha Discovered, delivered the talk.

Mindfulness Meditation Courses and Psychotherapy Counselling Session:

Centre organizes Mindfulness Meditation Courses in **Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, Leighton Buzzard, Godmanchester, Barcknell and London**. It has been very beneficial to our multicultural community and those courses have been very popular. It also brought funds to the centre. Everyone deeply appreciated the wellbeing and happiness brought into their lives through teachings of Reverend Akurala Samithasiri (Bhante Samitha Akurala).

Mindfulness Meditation Retreats: Few One Day retreats were held in **Letchworth & Milton Keynes** during this year (2022-2023). Those were included from 6AM till 6PM whole day programme with silent meditation, guided meditation, mindfulness teaching, webinars, seminars, workshops, presentations, guest speakers, sharing lunch and discussions on selected topics. **One Day retreats** were held on **21st May 2022**, **17th September 2022** and **11rd February 2023** At Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre.

Children's Mindfulness Course (Letchworth, Milton Keynes and Bracknell) Letchworth Session is held on every **First Saturday from 3.30PM till 5PM**. Significant number of children attended the session. Parents had real interest to up keep the course as those are very beneficial to the children for concentration and dealing with emotional difficulties.

London School of Management Education: Mindfulness Sessions: on **Tuesday 28th March 2023 from 4.30PM till 6PM**. Venerable Akurala Samitha, Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero, and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended to diliver it. Principal Dr Sarita Parhi, Mr King Adebayo and Miss Lydia Mireku (Teacher Training Programme Leader) arranged it. Over 30 members of the staff attended it.

YMCA - Milton Keynes: held a Mindfulness Meditation Session on 13th February 2023: for their residents. Mrs Lisa Boyd and Mrs Emma orgainzied it and Ven Venerable Akurala Samitha did a **Mindfulness Meditation Session.**

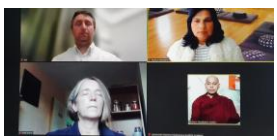
MK College, Chaffron Way: A mindfulness session was held for children aged 15-17 who had a horrid time but want to make a change. **Mr Simon Wendt** who is the tutor, organised the session with **Mrs Lisa Boyd**.

Letchworth Adults Beginners Mindfulness Courses:

Centre held **five courses** during this year for adults in Letchworth area. It was onsite and online. These were 08 weeks courses. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** dedicated a lot to keep these courses up and raise funds for the centre. We are very grateful for her volunteer support.

Letchworth Course I: Started: 28-04-2022 Finished: 16-06-2022
Letchworth Course II: Started: 30-06-2022 Finished: 18-08-2022
Letchworth Course III: Started: 01-09-2022 Finished: 20-10-2022
Letchworth Course IV: Started: 03-11-2022 Finished: 22-12-2022
Letchworth Course V: Started: 05-01-2023 Finished: 23-02-2023

Following are the pictures from Letchworth Adults Mindfulness Meditation Courses 2022-2023.



Advanced Mindfulness Course: Every Wednesday 7-9PM Every Wednesday Advanced Mindfulness Course is being held at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. **Five groups** were completed during the whole year.

Letchworth Advanced Mindfullness Course I: Started: 27-04-2022 Finished: 15-06-2022
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course II: Started 29-06-2022 Finished 17-08-2022
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course III: Started 31-08-2022 Finished 19-10-2022
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course IV: Started 02-11-2022 Finished 21-12-2022
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course V: Started 04-01-2023 Finished 22-02-2023

Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester Mindfulness Meditation Beginners Courses:

We contineue to meet people on those locations after the pandemic for Mindfulness Meditation Sessions. Some people joined online on Thursday and Wednesday. Quite a few them visited centre too.

All our Mindfulness Meditation courses had been very successful. It has been a great help to the community. These also enabled funds to the up keep the centre.

Sunday Drop In Mindfulness Meditation in Letchworth: Every Sunday evening 7-9PM we regularly host a session for the community to drop in for Mindfulness Meditation. With the outbreak of the pandemic, we hosted it online. It was a great success. **Dr Thura Limbin** and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** facilitate with teachings and hosting. It focuses on teachings from original sources and practice. It has been a very educational and our community has been benefiting from it. Different subjects were discussed and guide the community to attend the meditation regularly on every Sunday throughout the year.

Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions:

Our Psychotherapy and Counselling Sessions were going very well. A good number of people regularly get the service. Venerale Akurala Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratne and Mr Mark Brumwell continued to provide the services. Few other professionals requested to join the team. We provide online and also onsite sessions. Those sessions have brought good amount of funds to upkeep the centre.

Licence to Operate as a Buddhist Centre & A place of Worship:

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation granted Reverend Akurala Samithasiri “Licence to operate as a Buddhist Centre at 69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City”. Also it is a place of worship.

TBSUK (Theravada Buddhist Sangha in United Kingdom) & Sri Lanka Monks Council UK:

Venerable Akurala Samitha and the centre is a member of the above organizations. **On 10th August 2022**, Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the annual general meeting of **TBSUK**. Special conference was held online **24th September 2022**. Title of the conference is **The Customs and Lineage of the Elders**. Special presentation by **His Holiness Somdet Phra Buddhaghosajahn** (P.A. Payutto), leading scholar and author of the seminal volume: Buddhadhamma – The Laws of Nature and Their Benefits to Life Keynote speech by the **Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapundit** (Prayoon Dhammacitto), member of Thai Supreme Sangha Council, Abbot of Wat Prayurawongsawat, Bangkok.

School Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE): Venerable Akurala Samitha is the Buddhist Advisor to both Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. He contributes into the School Advisory Council for Religious Education as a member.

North Herts Interfaith Forum: Venerable Akurala Samitha is a committee member of the North Herts Interfaith Forum and contributes to its activities to bring cohesion among the faith groups.

Fund Raising Financial Insights of the Year 2022-2023:

All our courses and teaching programmes are on donation basis. We managed to raise funds to the centre as follows.

Following list is just a general outline to show how the donations received and expenses maintained. Please look into the accountant's report for more accurate figures.

Fund raising programmes:

- Beginners Mindfulness Meditation onsite and Online Courses in Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Bracknell, London, Leighton Buzzard and Godmanchester.
- Diploma Mindfulness Meditation Courses online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Advanced Mindfulness Meditation Courses Online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Buddhism Online Courses in Letchworth.
- Children's Mindfulness Meditation Online Course in Letchworth.
- Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions in Letchworth.
- Dana Donations received to the centre.
- Blessings Gratitude Donations received to the Centre.
- General Donations received to the centre.
- Donations received to the travel expenses towards the car.
- Child Sponsorship Project.
- Reverend Akurala Samithasiri contributed to the centre all the personal donations received to him (these are in addition to the above course funds.)
- Standing Order Subscriptions received to the Centre.
- General Donations Received to the centre account.

- Disaster Emergency help Fund received for helping Sri Lanka.
- Kathina Donation Received individually.
- Centre Standing Orders and General Donations.

Total income (Donations): = £112,538.00

- HMRC Gift Aid: £0.00

Total income (Donations & Gift Aid): = £112,538.00

Expenses Break Down for the year 2021-2022:

- House Mortgage Rent & Hiring Community Centre Halls to host meditation and other events.
- Centre improvements.
- Gas, Electricity & Water.
- Telephone.
- Food.
- Motor, Travel & Transport.
- Monks Expenses and other expenses.
- Council Tax.

Total Expenses: = £115,745.00

Conclusion:

Despite the challenges of after math of the pandemic, 2022-2023 Year of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre was a very progressing year. We are very grateful to all our members and friends by supporting us to achieve another successful year. **However we continued to face challenges as the demand for our services are increasing after the pandemic and also inflation (rise of cost of living) with the beginning of the year 2022**. **It was even hard to survive. So we had to cut lots of cost and work hard to raise funds.** However our members were very supportive and helped for the welfare of the monks and helped the centre to survive through the difficult time. Monks even worked tirelessly to help the needy timelessly.

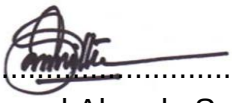
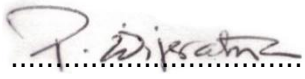
We managed to make a big difference to the livelihood in our local community especially through mental health services and children programmes and also our international community, particularly Sri Lanka. We are very impressed with the voluntary support and goodwill of our devotees to up keep our services and events.

Our projects in Sri Lanka were also very demanding due the economic crisis and pandemic in Sri Lanka. Cost of living had gone sky high in Sri Lanka. We had to do extra help. We were happy to help children to get their studies and other necessities. Our education projects for the needy children in Sri Lanka had been a great need. However their lives in Sri Lanka were getting much harder and they were in now experiencing financial crisis and country economic situation. We might have to do little bit more towards them. We endeavour to develop our support to them little bit more in the next year.

We are pleased to see a good and growing interest from our local community on our Mindfulness Courses, Meditation Sessions, Psychotherapy and Counselling session. We also determine to extend those services into our multicultural community in the forthcoming year. Those courses, voluntary services and teachings have changed the lives without any obligation to gender, race, religion, ethnicity or age.

On behalf of the **trustees of Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre** for Education, Meditation, Psychotherapy & Counselling (UK Registered Charity Number 1116187), we would like to **thank all our supporters and well wishes** for helping our charity fundraising events encouraging us to continue our charitable services for the benefit of the public. We look forward to see more new members joining to strengthen our community wellbeing projects and make our charity efforts a success.

Thank you.

		
.....	.....	.....
Reverend Akurala Samitahsiri	Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne	Mr Gary Bland
President	Secretary	Treasurer

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYC

England & Wales - Charity number 1116187

Accounts

Charity Trustees Annual Report 2021

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING

Letchworth
Dhamma Nikethanaya
Buddhist Cultural Centre

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ

Website: www.buddhistacademy.com
Email: buddhistacademy@gmail.com
Telephone: 01462 641 688
Mobile: 07983 466 105

Sunday 03rd April 2022

Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre
for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

Charity Trustees Annual Report:

This meeting was held online.

On Sunday 03rd April 2022

Present Trustees: Reverend Akurala Samithasiri,
Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne,
Mrs Nikki Butler,
Mr Gary Bland &
Mr John Williams

Other Members Present: Mr Ram Murthi Summan, Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva, Mr Samuel Heaps, Mr. Rasika Jayawardana, Mrs Vipuli Gunasena, Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi, Mr Paul Martin, Mr Udena Wanniarachchi, Mrs Emma Davilar, Mr Manohar Summan, Mr Des Raj & Mrs Pushpa Chauhan, Mr Indika P P Daluwathu Mullage and Mrs Malindi.

Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thera; head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre and Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero, Principal of Rathanasara Vidyayathana Pirivena and Resident Monk of Dutugemunu Raja Maha Viharaya, Baddegama Galle attended as guest monks.

Meeting started with few minutes meditation and religious observations. Reverend Akurala Samithasiri welcomed everyone and chaired the charity annual meeting. A minute silence was observed in tribute to two dedicative members who passed away last year, Mrs Rathnawalie Dep and Mr Frederick Day.

Miss Padma Wijeratne presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr Rasika Jayawardana suggested the minutes as accurate and Mr Paul Martin seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri requested to elect the trustees and new office bearers for the **New Year 2021-2022**. Miss Padma Wijeratne suggested Reverend Akurala Samithasiri to re-elect as the trustee and the president. Mr Des Raj Chauhan seconded it. Mr Paul Martin suggested to elect Miss Wijeratne as the secretary and trusee and Mr Indika Daluwathu Mullage seconded it. Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva suggested to re-elect Mr Gary Bland as the treasurer and the trustee and Mr Rasika Jayawardana seconded it. Mr Samuel Heaps suggested to elect Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary and the trustee. Mr Gary Bland seconded it. Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi suggested Mr John Williams as the trustee and the vice president. Mr Dinura Sonal De Silva seconded it. Due to the dismiss of Mrs Rathnawalie Dep a position of a trustee was vacant. Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi suggested to appoint Mrs Emma Davilar as the trustee and the assistant treasurer. Mr Indika Daluwathu Mullage seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri was elected as the president, Mr John Williams as the vice president, Miss Padma Wijeratne as the secretary, Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary, Mr Gary Bland as the treasurer and Mrs Emma Davilar as the assistant treasurer were elected as new office bearers for the year 2021-2022.

2021-2022 Annual Report: (01-04-2021 & 31-03-2022)

Welcome to the **18th Annual General Meeting** of **Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling** registered charity.

This report will reflect the work carried out by our charity for the year ending **31st March 2022**. We all have gained more confidence to continue our daily life as usual after the pandemic. As in the previous years we have been continuing our services and carrying out our objectives for the benefit of the community in UK and other countries (Only Sri Lanka in this year).

Sri Lankan New Year Festival Celebrated on 14th April 2021

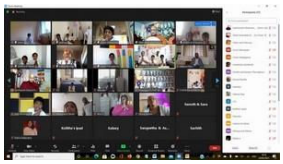
Sri Lankan New Year falls in April. It is a very important cultural event for our community. Members of Sri Lankan origin gather to observe cultural events and blessings. Our centre celebrated Sri Lankan New Year with traditional food and other activities of the festivity. We also held the traditional Oil Anointing Ceremony and children's cultural games on **14th and 17th April 2021**. A large number of member families joined for the annual event and blessings. It goes alone with the Easter holidays.

Centre Anniversary Day Celebration 19th April 2021

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre started on 19th April 2004. Therefore 19th April of the year is regarded as the centre anniversary day. This year it marks the **18th Year of the Centre and our organization** and also the **16th year being a registered charity**. To mark this special day of the Centre we held a special pooja dana offering to remember those who lost their lives during the pandemic. Venerable Monks attended for a special chanting, meditation programme, dhamma talk and pooja on Monday **19th April 2021** to appreciate all the help from the community and bless them all in gratitude sharing.

Online and Onsite Vesak Buddha Day Celebration: Special Day Programme with Observing Sil (Higher Precepts), Dhamma Talks, Meditation, Buddha Bodhi Pooja, Chanting and Festival of Vesak Lanterns Day on 15th and 26th May 2021

Vesak (May) Full Moon Day is the most important day to Buddhists across the globe as it celebrates the birth, enlightenment and the great passing away of our lord Buddha. **On 15th of May 2021** all the members joined online and onsite for a day programme with observing higher precepts, homage, Meditation, Dhamma talks and chanting protection blessings. A large number of devotees joined onsite on **26th May 2021** for offering dana and doing a special Bodhi pooja. Children and adults joined singing the devotional songs at the centre and at online programme. The Centre was decorated with typical Vesak lanterns and celebration atmosphere. Programmes sponsored by (1). **Mrs Chandra Kumari Medagama, Son Chamath, Son Gihan, Daughter-in-law Kavitha, Grand Son Ariya and family**, in loving memory of late mother Mrs Punchi Kumari Ulapane to transfer merits on third month remembrance; (2). **Mr Samanala Rajapaksha, Mrs Kalani Gunawardana, Daughter Thilanya, Son Thenuka & Family**, to transfer merits to departed Loving Grand Fathers Mr Aelien Gunawardana & Mr Gunadasa Rajapaksha and all departed relatives. Wishing Good Health to Grand Mothers Mrs Padmi Gunawardana & Mrs Prema Rajapaksha and all in the family. (3). **Mr Sirimal Ranathunga, Mrs Manel Ranathunga, Mrs Kisha Chaudari Alahakoon & Family**, to transfer merits In Loving Memory of Mr Stephen Cooray on 03rd Months Remembrance Ceremony. (4). **Mr Mahendra Iddamalgoda & Family**, In loving memory of Sir Henry Marking on his 19th anniversary Memorial Annual Remembrance Ceremony To Transfer merits. (5). **Mrs Kisha Chaudari Alahakoon & Family**, to transfer merits to Mr Parimal Kanthi Chaudari and all departed relatives and frieds. (6). **Mr Aloka and Mrs Veena Herttiarachchi, Daughter Avishi, Son Hasindu and Family**, to wish A Very Happy 10th Birthday to Son Hasindu Devmina. To Wish Good Health to parents. To Transfer Merits In loving memory of Late Father Mr Hettiarachchige Mathupala Perera and all departed relatives and friends. (7). **Mrs Rathnawalie Dep and Family**, to transfer merits to Loving Father Mr Robolge Hendry Lenora and all departed relatives and friends and wishing all in the family good health and all the blessings. (8). **Dr Vijitha Rathnayaka, Dr Ruvini Rathnayaka, Daughter Dr Aruni Rathnayaka and family**, To transfer merits Mrs Nalini Dharmasena, Professor Dr B. D. Dharmasena, Mr & Mrs M. B. Rathnayake and all departed relatives and friends and wishing all in the family good health and all the blessings. (9). **Mrs Nilanthi, Mr Udena Wanniarachchi, Son Manuka, Daugher Meheli & Family**, to share blessings to all in the family and friends. To share merits with departed Mother all the relatives.



Special Devotional Songs Event to Mark Vesak and Poson Full Moon Poya Days: on 05th and 12th June 2021

An interesting Dhamma Blessings Musical two events called "***Vesak Poson Devotional Songs Programme***" were held to mark the **Vesak and Poson Full moon Days**. Two days were divided for children and adults. **Sunday Dhamma School Children** participated a Devotional Songs Musical Event on **Saturday 05th June 2021**. A large number of devotees attend to support the event. Children's Devotional Songs event was organized by Dhamma School teachers and parents with the guidance of **Mr Rasika Jayawardana** and **Miss Padma Wijeratne**.

Adults Devotional Songs Musical Event was held on **Saturday 12th June 2021**. A large number of devotees attended to witness the event. Programme was organized by the Buddhist Centre. Programme was conducted by **Mrs Surani Wijesurendra** and **Mr Hirantha Wijeratne**. Professional signing and music support were given by **Visharada Mrs Geetha Weerasinghe, Mr Rohana Gunawardana, Dasun Gunawardana, Mr Nadun Gunawardana, Mr Chamara Gunawardana and Mrs Chamari Jayasinghe**.

The events were held in aid of raising funds for Sri Lanka Covid-19 Appeal to donate dry food parcels to seriously needy families affected with the pandemic and economic crisis in Sri Lanka. All the devotees contributed towards this course on this behalf. Special sponsorships were given by (1). **Mr Sameera Wijewardana, Mrs Nilanka Hettiarachchi, Mrs Piyaseeli Pagoda Arachchi and family,** (2). **Dr Nanda, Mrs Swarna De Silva & Family**, To share the merits with all departed relatives and friends. To share Blessings with family, friends (3). **Mrs Shamalee Karunaratne & Family**, To share the merits In Loving Memory of Mr Sushant Singh Rajput on 01st Year Remembrance. (4). **Mr Gamini Senadeera, Mrs Renuka Hewapathirana & Family**, To share the merits with All departed relatives and friends. (5). **Dr Chandrika Worrall & Family,** To share the merits with All departed relatives and friends. (6). **Mr Rasika Jayawardane, Mrs Wipuli Jayawardane, Son Vidun, Daughter Vidunya & Family**. To share Merits In Loving Memory of Beloved Parents **Mrs Manel Jayawardane, Mr Hema Jayawardane, Mrs Hariot Gunasena and Mr W D Gunasena.** Also to transfer Merits to Loving Brother Late Mr Mahesh Jayawardane and all departed relatives and friends. (7). **Mrs Anne Schilizzi & Family**. Wishing A Very Happy Birthday to Anne.! Blissful Wedding to Stephen & Isabel..! Dhamma Blessings to Anne for her 63rd Birthday on 30th June. All the Blessings to Helen & Clara for the best of luck in their careers progress. A Very Happy Wedding Blessings to Stephen & Isabel Almeida. Dhamma Blessings to Sarah for Success and Happiness. Blessings & Healings to Frances Dickenson. (8). **Mrs Manjula Kumarapeli** (9). **Mrs Dilini Kapurubandara, Mrs Ruvini Kapurubandara & Family**. (9). **Ms Shelvi Sivasubramaniam**, In Gratitude to the Lord Buddha.! Sharing Blessings with all. (10). **Dr Ruvini Senasinghe** In Loving Memory Mrs Yohani De Silva's Father, Dr Chandrapala De Silva.

All the funds raised from this events and in general for the Sri Lankan Food Crisis Appeal were sent to Sri Lanka to distribute dry food parcels.

Charity Work in Sri Lanka: Corona Pandemic, Food and Economic Crisis Appeal for Sri Lanka: 26th May 2021:

At the beginning of the post covid period, there arose a critical food shortage in Sri Lanka. So many Sri Lankans contacted us for help. Venerable Akurala Samitha organised a fund raising appeal to provide dry food parcels for needy. All the members supported the good course. **Over £5000/= were raised. Over 500 families received** the food parcels worth the shopping of a month.

Sri Lanka Charity Work: Temple Construction & Building work.

Our devotees supported some of the incomplete temple works in some parts of Sri Lanka. Shrine room and Buddha statue building project in Kurunegala. Bell tower were built in Balapitiya Kovilawatta temple, in Sri Lanka. Work completed on **16th October 2021**.

Kathina Pinkama in Sri Lanka: Annual Community Spiritual Season Final Day Celebration: 11th & 14th November 2021:

Our centre financially sponsored **two Kathina Ceremonies** in Sri Lanka. Annual Kathina Ceremony was held on **11th November 2021 at Balapitya Bodhirukkharamaya Temple in Sri Lanka** and on **14th November 2021 at Akurala Abhinavaramaya in Sri Lanka**.

Sri Lanka Child Sponsorship, Community Welfare Support, Charity Projects: For 2021-2022:

We are very grateful to all our members for supporting the child sponsorship programmes and other welfare activities in Sri Lanka. Due to the outbreak of the pandemic and also subsequent economic crisis in Sri Lanka, we have to do extra to help our children. We continued to sponsor financially our children in Sri Lanka. They all have shown outstanding success in their education.

Charity Projects in Sri Lanka for the Financial Year 2021 / 2022:

We shipped food items, baby food, medicine and sanitary items to **Sri Lanka on 06th July and 10th September 2021** and few other times. Sri Lankans were struggling with economic and health crisis. We are very grateful for our community for stepping into help the needy people in Sri Lanka.

Charity Fund Raising for Ukrain: Our community supported an open day for fund-raising event in Hitchin. They collected funds for people who affected by war. They cooked food and shared it for voluntary donations on **26th March 2022**.

Poson Full Moon Poya Day Programme on 26th June 2021

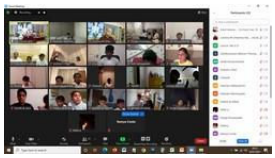
Buddhists observe the full Moon Poya Day every month as a significant day for practice (*sabbath*). Even though every full moon poya day is important, some of them are highly significant due to historical reasons. **Poson Full Moon Poya Day** is the second such significant Full Moon Poya Day for particularly Sri Lankan Buddhists as on that day the Buddhism was introduced to **Sri Lanka in 236 BC** (Before Christ) and another seven countries from India.

We had a day programme on **26th June 2021** to observe Poson Full Moon Poya Day with observing Ata (eight) sil (precepts), meditation, Buddha pooja, Bodhi pooja and dhamma discussions.

New Visiting Monk's arrival: Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero from Sri Lanka: 07th March 2021.

Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero arrived to UK on **07th March 2021** to stay with Venerable Akurala Samitha for two years as the resident monk. Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero is the principal of G/Rathanasara Vidyayathana Maha Pirivena, and the resident monk of Dutugemunu Raja Maha Vihara, Baddegama, Galle Sri Lanka. He has been contributed to all our religious, educational, spiritual and wellbeing services.

Online Temple Studio for delivering Dhamma Talks, Blessings Chanting, Meditation Programmes and All Other Temple work:



Due to the pandemic deadly virus restrictions, we introduced online services. It has been very useful most of the time. As a result we continued our programmes in hybrid manner both online and onsite. Many people joined online temple when programmes and regular services take place. Monks at the centre dedicated for those programmes and worked tirelessly to meet all the requirements. It was very challenging but it was really supportive for the community.

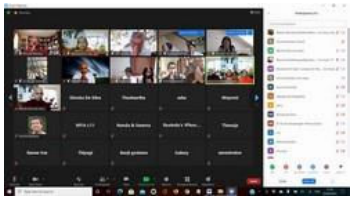
Every Saturday Evening From 6PM till 8PM Dhamma Dana, Bodhi Pooja, Meditation & Protection Blessings Chanting Programme:

Every Saturday we host a special Programme to share the teachings, blessings and also provide few minutes meditation. Good number of devotees regularly joined these programmes from home, online and onsite at the Buddhist Centre. This Saturday Evening Dhamma Dana Sermons, Bodhi Pooja, Blessings Chanting, Meditation programmes were held in the evening from 6PM till 8PM. The programme was included a **Dhamma Talk in Sinhala, Dhamma Talk in English, Bodhi Pooja Homage, Meditation and Protection Blessings Chanting**. Venerable Monks offered the Dhamma Talks in Sinhala and English on very interesting and highly educational topics. Families who were interested sharing Dhamma and the devotees sponsored generously the dhamma dana (sharing the gift of lord Buddha's teachings).

Children Programmes and Dhamma School: Every Saturday 3.30PM till 5PM

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya organized a regular programme for children on every Saturday 3.30-5PM. **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Mr Rasika Jayawardana** and **Mrs Veena Hettiarachchi** administered the teachings. All parents actively participated to support to upkeep of the programme. Children learnt meditation, homage chanting, Buddhism and general ethics.

Daham Sisila Programmes on Every Sunday From 5PM till 6.30PM:



Milton Keynes Vihara Community organized a series of regular Dhamma Programme on Every Sunday especially to help the people (young and adults) to come together to listen to the teachings of the Buddha and engage in a discussion. This became a very popular programme due to the engagement of the community. A large number of participants were actively attended. Our monks shared the time, effort and teachings to contribute into this and up keep of the programme. **50th Programme** of a series of programmes was held on **Sunday 25th April 2021**.

Annual Three Months Rains Retreat Opening Ceremony and Esala Full Moon Poya Day Programme - Saturday 24th July 2021

Venerable monks at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre hosted a blissful ceremony to observe the significances of Esala (July) Full Moon Poya and mark the beginning of the Annual Vassana Season on **Esala (July) Full Moon Poya Saturday 24th July 2021**. Vassana Season is known as **Annual Rains Meditation Retreat** that Theravada Monks should practice once a year for three months on Esala Full Moon Poya Day. Venerable Monks of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre observed the beginning of **annual rains three months retreat** on **Saturday 24th July 2021** respecting the advice of the Lord Buddha and in compliance with the 2600 years old tradition. Whole day programme was held online with chanting, meditation, dhamma talk and observing eight precepts. A large number of devotees joined both at vihara onsite and online. This year three months Rains Retreat (Vassana) Season was between **24th July 2021** and **07th November 2021**. During those three months, every Saturday for 12 weeks a special programme was held to share the teachings and blessings.

This year three months retreat and kathina ceremony was sponsored by **Mrs Srima Kadurugamuwa, Mr Nuwan & Mrs Chopana Kadurugamuwa and family; Mr Deshan & Mrs Nishani De Silva and family; Mr Dushantha & Mrs Erandi Gunasekara & family; Mr Yohan & Mrs Ashana Dharmathilake and family.** This is the **18th consecutive year Rainy Retreat** of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** and **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero** joined with **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** to stay the three months rains retreat in this year 2021.

On that day Most Venerable Monks Chanted the First Discourse delivered By the Blessed One (The Buddha), Dhamma Chakkhapavattana Sutta together with a special blessings pooja and gave Dhamma Talks both in Sinhala & English explaining the significances of the Esala Full Moon Poya Day and Vas Aradhana (Invitation to Three Months Retreat).

Volunteers at the Centre: Deep Clean Project of Temple Sunday 19th September 2021.

Volunteers are always very helpful at the centre. They engage in many activities with the guidance of **Miss Padma Wijeratne** who coordinates the projects. Volunteers joined for deep clean project at the centre on Sunday **19th September 2021**. We all at the centre greatly appreciated their contributions with lots of blessings. They also made a stand for the brass pagoda. New Clothes and alter sheets were made by **Mr Tyron and Mrs Dayani Peiris** on **03rd November 2021**.

Special Pooja During the Rains Retreat Season (Vassana): A Valuable Object of Veneration, a brass pagoda donation on Sunday 26th September 2021:

A Very Special and Beautiful Dhathu (Relics) Karaduwa (Brass Casket) was donated to Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre **On Sunday 26th September 2021**. It is a Marvellous Meritorious Deed during the Vassana Spiritual Rainy Retreat Season. By **Ms Rameshini Silva** together with Mother **Mrs Sandya Silva**, Brother **Mr Umesh Silva** and **daughter Sanuki**, in loving memory of beloved father late **Mr Upali Rohith Silva** to mark the **second anniversary remembrance merits transfer**. It is one of the rare and highest meritorious deed. May those noble blessings be with loving father, dearest husband, loving grandfather late **Mr Upali Rohith Silva**.!

Special Atavisi Sambuddha Pooja, Held on Binara Full Moon Sunday 26th September 2021

A **Special Atavisi Sambuddha Pooja** was held to mark the **Binara Full Moon Poya Day** on **Sunday 26th September 2021** at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre. This Special Pooja was sponsored by the main sponsors of this year kathina ceremony and the devotees of the centre. This was the first pooja also offered to the

special karaduwa donated to the centre. A large number of devotees attended the ceremony.

House Blessings with Kathina Robe:

It is customary to take the Kathina Robe to carefully selected houses for special religious blessings. It was held at **Mr Nuwan** and **Mrs Chopana Kadurugamuwa** house on **15th October 2021**.

Mrs Yohani De Silva hosted a Kathina Robe receiving house ceremony on **28th October 2021** with her daughter **Miss Dinu** and **Miss Anuradha**. **Miss Darsha De Almeida** and her mother also participated.

Other Special Poojas During the Vassana (Rains Retreat Season):

Mr Deshan & Mrs Shani De Silva hosted a special pooja on 23rd October 2023 at their house in Hatfield by inviting all their friends and family to bless the house with the Kathina Robe and giving the opportunity for their local community to receive blessings.

Oxford community hosted special religious ceremony to get the community together. Our

centre members live in Oxford, Didcot and Newbury area organized this. During the vassana season, they held a special dhamma programme on **Saturday 07th August 2021**. A large number of local devotees attended.

Nikini (August) Full Poya Day Programme was held on **Saturday 21st August 2021**. Programme was sponsored by **Mrs Shamali Jayasuriya & Family**. To Transfer Merits In Loving Memory of **Punchi Amma (Auntie), Mrs Soma Seekkuarachi (nee Welmillage)** who passed away in Sri Lanka on **Thursday 12th August 2021** at the age of **91 years**. This occation used to share merits with all departed relatives and friends. Share blessings with all.

Mother's Day Pooja: 27th March 2022: A special pooja and blessings chanting was

held on **Mother's Day 27th March 2022** at the centre. It was a good relief for those who live miles away from their parents. Many found the joy by bringing their parents to the centre. This pooja, special chanting and tribute brought healing to many hearts.

The Annual Kathina Ceremony: 18th Consecutive Year (Sangha Day Community Event) Celebration held on Saturday 07th November 2021:

The Annual Kathina Ceremony is the biggest community event at the centre. It was held on **Sunday 07th November 2021** at **Garden City Academy, Radburn Way, Letchworth Garden City SG6 2JZ**. This was the **18th consecutive Kathina Ceremony** or community day (Sangha Day) Celebration held by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Community with the able guidance of Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero, head of the centre.

This year Kathina Ceremony was mainly sponsored by **Mrs Srima Kadurugamuwa, Mr Nuwan** and **Mrs Chopana Kadurugamuwa and family**, **Mr Deshan** and **Mrs Nishani De Silva** and **family**, **Mr Dushantha** and **Mrs Erandi Gunasekara** and **family**, **Mr Yohan** and **Mrs Ashana Dharmathilake** and **family** and **all the members of the centre community**. A large gathering of over 18 Venerable Monks representing Buddhist Temples in UK graced the ceremony. Over **300 (three hundred)** devotees representing cosmopolitan member families of the centre attended.

The Kathina Ceremony is the highly meritorious and significantly blissful festival in the Buddhist tradition. This Community Day Ceremony was held with the full participation of the community to mark the successful completion of the annual three months spiritual retreat observed by venerable monks residing at the monastery. During this period of three months, the members of the community took special attention to devote more time and effort to practice Lord Buddha's teaching as in Meditation, Dhamma studies, Dana Offering, Sila (Morality) Observations and blessings with Pooja chantings. Hence this three-month period was regarded as the highly blessed and most sacred spiritual season of the community.

In accordance with the 26 centuries old unrestricted Buddhist traditional lineage, Venerable Monks headed by **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha**, Head of the Centre and **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero** and **Dr Dato Sir Sumanasiri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** observed this year's Three-Month Rainy Retreat on **Esala Full Moon Day** that fell on **Saturday 24th July (Esala) 2021** and successfully completed the three months on **Vap Full Moon Day** Which fell on **Sunday 07th November 2021**. Kathina Ceremony has to be held within the month from the completed full moon day to the subsequent full moon, that means before the next Full Moon Day that falls on Friday 19th November 2021. After this day this Ceremony cannot be held according to the Buddhist tradition.

This year Kathina Ceremony of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya brought many multi cultural people together as one family. Everyone inspired the happy, peaceful and uplifting atmosphere of the ceremony. The local community admired the rare experience of attractively pious cultural activities related to the ceremony such as Kathina Procession. Children of the Dhamma School put lots of effort with overwhelming enthusiasm in participation. It was a very educational and joyful opportunity for them to experience the typical Buddhist Culture.

The Kathina Procession was beautiful as it was led by the children of the dhamma school, with traditional drumming heralding a Special Statue of Lord Buddha and the Kathina Robe. Children, parents and members of the Buddhist Centre community joined carrying Buddhist flags and decorative items.

The venerable monks who were attended **Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Thero** (London Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** (Chief Prelate of UK, Europe, Singapore and Malaysia and Head of Global Realists Monastery), **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Maha Thero** (retired principal of Vidyathunga Vidyayatana, Dickwella, Matara), **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Maha Thero** (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Vihara), **Most Venerable Gunnapane Sumanarama Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Nepal Sumana Thero** (Head Monk of London Vipassana Mindfulness Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Temple), **Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero** (Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon), **Most Venerable Hallindola Hemaloka Thero** (Resident Monk of London Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Anuradhapura Dhammadassi Thero** (Resident Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Venerable Anamaduwe Wimalajeeva Thero** (Deputy head monk of Nottingham Buddhist Temple), **Venerable Wiharagama Kusala Thero** (Acting Head Monk of Leicester Dharmasoka Buddhist Centre), **Venerable Nepal Sumedha Thero** (Resident Monk of Nottingham Buddhist Temple) and **Most Venerable Hanwelle Gnanarathana Thero** (Resident monk of East London Lumbini Vihara),.

Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Thero (London Kingsbury Temple) administered the five precepts. **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero (Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon)** conducted the Buddha Pooja. **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Thero (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara)** conducted Kathina Robe offering. **Venerable Wiharagama Kusala Thero (Acting Head Monk of Leicester Dharmasoka Buddhist Centre)** did the punnanumodana (sharing of merits). **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Maha Thero (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Vihara)** delivered a Dhamma Talk in Sinhala explaining the significances of the traditional spiritual ceremony to the modern world, and highlighted the credentials of Venerable Akurala Samitha as a rare skilful monk from whom the community can be benefited immensely. **Most Venerable Nepal Sumana (Head Monk of London Vipassana Mindfulness Meditation Centre)** delivered the English Dhamma talk to mark the beginning of the ceremony and explain the significances of the day by dedicating the Kathina Dana and commended the importance of mental health services rendered by Venerable Akurala Samitha and Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Maha Thero** (retired principal of Vidyathunga Vidyayatana, Dickwella, Matara) conducted a short sharing of merits after accepting the kathina robe as one of the resident monks who observed this year Vassana Retreat Season. All the monks chanted very special protection chanting to bring blessings to all the community.

Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted **A Special Atavisi Buddha** to invoke the merits and blessings to parents of all members of the community. Late parents of the members of the community were dearly remembered by sharing the merits.

Hamper Gift Parcels to venerable Monks were sponsored by **Mr & Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge, Mr Indika & Mrs Sulakshi Devage, Dr Anura and Mrs Chandani Herath.**

Gift Donations Offering to Venerable Monks were supported by all the members of the community with the main support of **Mr Dushanatha & Mrs Erandi Gunasekara, Mr Deshan & Mrs Shani De Silva, Mr Aloka & Mrs Veena Hettiarachchi** and **Mrs Khushlani Dep**.

Children of our Dhamma School actively participated with few devotional songs. Kathina Procession was held in compounds of the ceremony venue. Special thanks to teachers and parents including **Mr Rasika, Mrs Vipuli, Miss Padma** and **Mrs Malindi**. The Son of Mr and Mrs Dissanayaka, Mr Nisaja Dissanayaka sang a beautiful devotional song to the audience.

Venerable Akurala Samitha thanked everyone supported to make this year Kathina ceremony a great success. The Ceremony arrangements and hall decorations were not possible without the earnest support of **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Ms Nikki Butler, Miss Eleanor, Emma Davilar, Mr Jason Richard, Miss Chamari Jayasinge, Mrs Nadee**

Athuraliya, Mr Udena & Mrs Nilanthi Wanniarachchi, and Mr Godfry and Mrs Sunethra De Silva. Venerable Samitha shared heartfelt gratitude and blessings with them all.

Venerable Akurala Samitha shared the blessings with those who offered **Atapirikara**, **Robes**, Monks' gift items and other donations. Their support greatly counted for the success of the ceremony.

May the Blessings of this greatest meritorious deed fulfil, without exception the aspirations of all, and lead to the everlasting happiness *Nibbana*! May all be secure, well and happy with Noble Blessings of the Triple Gem!

Annual Kathina Ceremonies at Other Temples in UK:

Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Saturday 23rd October 2021** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero attended to it.

Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 24th October 2021** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero attended to it.

Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 24th October 2021** and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero attended to it.

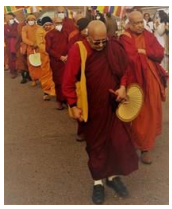
Stroke-On-Trent Buddhist Vihara Kathina Ceremony was held on **Saturday 13th November 2021**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero attended the ceremony.

Leicester Dharmasoka Vihara Annual Kathina Ceremony was held on **Sunday 14th November 2021**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero attended the ceremony.

Milton Keynes Vihara Annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 30th October 2021:

Under the patronage of **Venerable Akurala Samitha, Milton Keynes Vihara Community** celebrated their **annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 30th October 2021**. This was their **03rd consecutive ceremony** at **Bletchley Youth Centre**, Derwent Drive,

Bletchley MK3 7BE. Over 300 (three hundred) devotees attended the ceremony. 23 (twenty three) most venerable monks representing all the temples in the United Kingdom attended to grace the ceremony. **Dr Ruvini Senasinghe** and **Mrs Yohani De Silva** sponsored the Annual Kathina Pinkama with the advice of Venerable Akurala Samitha.



Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dr Withrandeniye Kassapa Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of Birminham Buddhist Maha Vihara, Leicester Dharmasoka Buddhist Vihara and Stroke On Trent Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Nayaka Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Keppitiyagoda Gunawansa Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of Birmingham Jethawana Buddhist Vihara and Liverpool Sambhodhi Vihara), **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Maha Thero** (retired principal of Vidyathunga Vidyayatana, Dickwella, Matara), **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of East London Lumbini Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Uduve Dhammaloka Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of Elanmethiniyaramaya, Colombo), **Most Venerable Mapalagama Soratha Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Jethavana Vihara), **Most Venerable Kulugamuve Kassapa Thero** (resident Monk of London Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Tissapura Sugatharathana Thero** (deputy head monk of Liverpool Sambodhi Vihara), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero** (Head Monk of London Thames Vihara), **Most Venerable Galayaye Dhammadassi Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of London Kingsbury temple), **Most Venerable Hallindola Hemaloka Thero** (Resident Monk of London Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Udunuwara Indrarathana Thero** (resident monk of Birmingham Jethawana Vihara), **Most Venerable Kahawanugoda Wimaladhamma Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Jethavana Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Rotumba Gunarathana Thero** (Resident Monk of Liverpool Sambodhi Vihara), **Most Venerable Rathnapure Nandaloka Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Maha Vihara), **Most Venerable U Sumangalo Thero** (Resident Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Babarwane Upali Thero** (Resident Monk of Stroke On Trent Buddhist Centre), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerale Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero** (Head monk of Buduraja Maha Vihara, Matara), **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre) and **Most Venerable Sister Maruta** (Head Nun of Niponsan Myahoji Japanese Temple) were attended the ceremony.

On behalf of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre, **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** and **Mr Luke Beeton** attended the ceremony and helped to make it a great success.

Visiting Monks Leaving to Sri Lanka & Singapore Malaysia: Most Reverend Dr Dato Sumanasiri of Singapore Malaysia and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero - 20th December 2021:

Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero arrived to our centre (UK) on **15th January 2020** with the invitation of **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha** and sponsor support of **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe**. He stayed at our centre and supported all religious and educational programmes. After completing his tenure he went back to Sri Lanka on **20th December 2021**. On behalf of the centre **Miss Padma Wijeratne** and **Dhamma School Children and parents** donated **a laptop** for his Dhamma online programmes and some funds for his travel expenses. We all were deeply grateful for his support. **Most Reverend Dr Dato Sir Sumanasiri Nayaka Thero** of Singapore Malayasia arrived to our centre (UK) on **16th July 2020** and supported earnestly to all our centre activities. He left back to Singapore Malaysia on **20th December 2021**. Veneable Akurala Samitha was the only resident monk from **20th December 2021** till **07th March 2021**. On **07th March 2021 Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** came to the centre as the resident monk to stay two years.

Celebrating Members' Special Moments:

Mrs Shreeni De Silva celebrated her 70th Birthday on 16th April 2021 with a dana and blessings pooja. Venerable Monks attended to the programme.

Mrs Nishendra Dissanayaka and Son Nishaja cerebrated their birthday with the blessings of Venerable monks on **06th July 2021.**

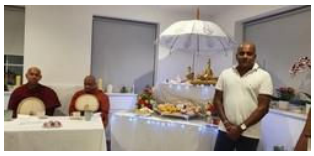
Mr Mahendra Iddamalgoda celebrated his **60th Birthday on 22nd July 2021.** Venerable Monks joined the pooja and dana blessings at the centre.

Mr Pradeep Selvaratnam celebrated his **40th Birthday** on **07th August 2021**. Venerable monks attended to the community hall special ceremony with dana and blessings. Mrs Shilani Porage organized it.

Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe's celebrated her Birthday was on 13th October 2021: She celebrated her birthday on **10th October 2021** with the blessings of the Venerable Monks of the centre and other invited guest monks. Among them, **Most Venerable Dediyawala Wimala Nayaka Thero, Most Venerable Matugama Palitha Thero, Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero, Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero** and **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha** visited **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe** house for her birthday On **Tuesday 10th October 2021** to do

a special blessing. **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe** is a very dedicated member of the centre and even supported for all our activities. We are very grateful for her contributions.

Mr Dushantha Gunasekara's 50th Birthday 02nd November 2021: Community of the centre hosted a special blessings ceremony at his home and temple to celebrate the special 50th birthday of **Mr Dushantha Gunasekara on 02nd November 2021**. A large number of friends and family gathered. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero conducted the pooja.



Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero's Birthday 20th November 2021: Community of the centre hosted a special blessings ceremony to celebrate the birthday of **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero**. He was the retired principle of Vidyathunga Vidyayathanaya, Budu Raja Maha Vehera, Dickwella, Vevurukannala, Matara. He stayed as the resident monk helping the community during the most difficult times. He supported weekly Dhamma Talks, Pooja, Chanting and other spiritual needs. We all at the centre were very grateful for his contribution.

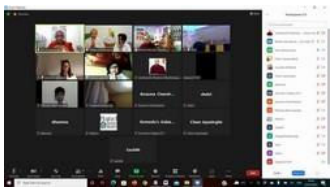
Late Mrs Rathnawalie Dep Birthday Celebration on 30th December 2021: Members of the centre organized a special blessing ceremony and pooja with the participation of Late Mrs Rathnawalie Dep's family to commorate her life on her **birthday 30th December 2021**.

Mr Sampath Samaraweera celebrated his 40th Birthday on 16th January 2022. Mrs Dilini Kapurubandara organized a dana blessings. Venerable Akurala Samitha and the resident monks conducted the blessings.

Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero's Birthday on 24th January 2022: **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** is the head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre. He helps our spiritual and social activities a lot. Venerable Monks at the centre and the community are very grateful of his contributions. We remembered him on his birthday **24th January 2021** by doing a special pooja and invoke the blessings to him. On **25th January 2022** Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero went to Sri Lanka with a wheel chair for Venerable Akurala Samitha's father.

Mr Glenn Everard celebrated his 51st Birthday on 25th January 2022: Mr Glenn Everard was a long standing dedicated member of the centre. He celebrated his very **special 51st birthday** in the centre. Centre community organized a special pooja to invoke blessings to him on his 50th birthday on **25th January 2022**.

Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne celebrated her Birthday on 25th January 2022:



Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne has been a long standing member and also holds responsible positions like trustee and treasurer at the centre. She contributed her time, effort and financial support for the temple extensively. Everyone at the centre is extremely grateful for her dedication to upkeep the centre. Resident Monks and the community organized **a special blessings pooja chanting online on 22nd January 2022** to invoke blessings to **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne**. Dana ceremony was held at her resident **on 25th January 2022** with the participation of **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara) and **Most Venerable U Sumangala** (Resident Monk of New Castle). A large number of members of the centre joined online and at house to the pooja and dana.

Miss Methushi Wijewardhana Celebrated her birthday on **26th January 2022**. **Mrs Nilanka Hettiarachchi** and **Mr Sameera Wijewardhana** hosted an annual ceremony on their daughter's birthday to do the blessings with the local community in Prexton and also to do the house blessings. They invoked the blessings to their very ill father **Mr Lional Gamini Wijewardhane**.

Mrs Niranjala Perera celebrated her 79th Birthday with special dhamma dana Saturday Evening programme on **27th February 2022**.

Mr Brixcious Anthony Hettiarachchi celebrated his 51st Birthday on 12th March 2022. He is one of the main and dedicated supporters of the centre. A special pooja was held with the friends and family on 12th March 2021 at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre.

Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero celebrated his 40th Birthday on 24th March 2022. A special pooja was held at the centre and all the members appreciated his arrival to stay as a resident monk for two years.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's 50Th Birthday - 25th March 2022: Centre community took the privilege to pay tribute to the outstanding work of **Venerable Akurala Samitha on his 50th birthday** by organizing **a special dana** (food offering to

monks) **ceremony** and **chanting blessings pooja** on **25th March 2022**. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** organized the event. A large gathering of over 18 monks representing all the temples in UK attended to grace the ceremony. Among them, **Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dr Witharandeniye Kassapa Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of Birminham Maha Vihara, Stroke-On-Trent Vihara, Leicester Dharmasoka Vihara), **Most Venerable Keppitiyagoda Gunawansa Nayaka Thero** (Head Monk of Birmingham Jethavana Buddhist Vihara and Liverpool Sambodhi Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thero** (Head Monk of Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Thero** (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Viahra), **Most Venerable Mapalagama Soratha Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Birmingham Jethavana Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Nepal Sumana Thero** (Head Monk of London Vipassana Mindfulness Meditation Centre), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thero** (Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Karagammanawa Upali** Thero (Resident Monk of Stroke on Trent Vihara), **Most Venerable Galayaye Dhammadassi Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of London Kingsbury Temple), **Most Venerable Rathnapure Nandaloka Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Kottawagama Dhammajothi Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara), **Most Venerable Mawathawewe Gunarathana Thero** (Resident Monk of Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara) and **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** (Principal of G/Rathanasara College Pirivena, Baddegama Galle).

Mr Godfry, **Mrs Sunethra De Silva**, **Mrs Nikki Butler**, **Mrs Emma Davilar**, **Mr Neil and Mrs Nitha, Mr and Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge, Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe, Mrs Nilanka Hettiarachchi**, **Mrs Nadika Athuraliya**, **Miss Chamari Jayasinghe** and **Mrs Subhashini, Mr Jayanath, Mr Nishanedra and Mrs Nisansala, Mrs Shilani Porage, Mr Kasun Fernando** helped the dana (food offerings to monks) and the ceremony. A large number of over 300 devotees joined the special blessings.

Prior to the Birthday, all the **chaplaincy team at Lister Hospital East and North Herts NHS** Trust visited the centre on **23rd March 2022** to bless Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Interfaith Activities by the Centre:

Our centre has been actively participating local and national interfaith groups and make necessary contributions to be part of the interfaith relations. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** regularly attend **East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust Lister Hospital**, **QE II Hospital in Welwyn Garden City**, and **Mount Vernon Cancer Hospital in London Northwood** as a part of chaplain team. Venerable Akurala Samitha attends monthly meetings and hosts a weekly meditation sessions in addition to visiting the patients for blessings. **Brother John O'Neill**, team lead of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Chaplain of East and North Herts NHS Trust, appreciated the dedicated the work done by Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha at Lister Hospital at a meeting held at Lartista Italian Restaurant, Letchworth **on 23rd June 2021**. All NHS Staff come together on **06th July 2021** to remember those who **lost their lives working at NHS Due to Covid-19**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended the service. There was another outdoor meeting with interfaith blessings on **21st July 2021**. Interfaith Volunteers got together was held on **20th October 2021** at Lister Hospital Chapel. Christmas blessings and open prayer day was held on **15th December 2021** to share the gratitude at the end of the year. General meeting of the interfaith team was held on **17th March 2022** at Lister Hospital Chapel.

Venerable Akurala Samitha continues to be dedicated member of North Herts Interfaith Forum and Hertfordshire Faith Leaders Forum.

Home Visit By the Centre:

Home visits are a very active part of the centre. Venerable Monks do the regular home visits for spiritual and cultural needs. After the pandemic, we slowly hosted home visits.

Mrs Dulanjalie Alahapperuma and Mr Damith Gajanayake and family hosted a home visit blessings on **21st June** 2021 with the participation of their friends.

Mrs Nisansala Dharmaratne and Mr Nishendra Dissanayaka hosted a blessings programme at their house for the community on **22nd July 2021**. **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri Chief Prelate of Singapore and Malaysia, Venerable Nepal Sumana Thero** also joined the house blessings.

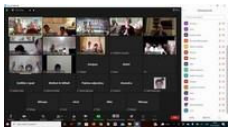
Mrs Hansika and **Mr Pravindra** Disanayake hosted a house dana in loving memory of their beloved father **Mr Alankarage Arnet Indrapala De Silva on his 7th Day remembrance On 31st December 2021.** Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the ceremony.

Mrs Jane Wilson invited Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne to visit her house to do house blessings. It was very helpful for her as she was struggling with her family situation. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne did a short meditation and blessings on **01st March 2022** at her house.

Year End Blessings: Christmas Blessings programme on 24th December 2021: We hosted an online blessings and meditation programme to share spiritual blessings on Christmas. A good number of people joined the online session.

2022 Happy New Year Blessings: A Special Atavisi Buddha Pooja to welcome the New Year was held on 1st January 2022

The Community of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya organised Atavisi Buddha Pooja Special Blessings ceremony on **Saturday 01st January 2022** to share the blessings with all on the dawn of the **New Year 2022**. All members and devotees attended both online and onsite.



The blessings programmes were sponsored by all the members. Special sponsorships were extended by **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Mr Aloka & Mrs Veena Hettiarachchi, Mr Neil Weerakoon, Mrs Nitha Gurusinghe, Miss Julia Clark.** A large number of devotees gathered at the centre to **start the New Year 2022 with Blessings**. A large number of devotees joined the **evening Atavisi Buddha Pooja**. This programme was sponsored mainly by devotees from Letchworth, Milton Keynes and Bracknell communities. **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** conducted the New Year Day Blessings on pooja.

Emergency Trip To Sri Lanka: Venerable Akurala Samitha's Father' Was Not Well and Passed Away:

At the beginning of the year, it was a very hard time as Venerable Akurala Samitha had to go to Sri Lanka unexpectedly on **05th January 2022**. His father was deteriorating very badly. It was really good for him and his family as he managed to stay 9 days with his father. Local monks gathered and did the blessings. Venerable Akurala Samitha returned back to UK on **14th January 2022** as the father showed good improvement by seeing him and receiving his spiritual care.

After 14 days, unfortunately he passed away on **27th January 2022**. Venerable Akurala Samitha went back to Sri Lanka and attended the funeral. A large number of monks over 50 in numbers, from the local temples joined the funeral service. Devotees from Letchworth, Milton Keynes, Bracknell, London and many parts of UK attended online. All the monks from UK temples attended online. **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (Head Monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre) and **Most Venerable Akuratiye Nanda Nayaka Thero** (Chancellor of Ruhuna University, Matara Sri Lanka), **Most Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero** (Principal of Rathanasara Vidyayathana Piriven Baddegama Galle) attended to the funeral and the 7th day dana. **Mr Lakith Cooray** attended the funeral on behalf of UK Reality Charity and all devotees. **Most Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala Nayaka Thero** made a speech online on behalf of all the monks in UK. **Miss Padma Wijeratne** on behalf of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre, **Dr Ajith De Silva** on behalf of Milton Keynes Vihara Mindfulness Meditation Center and **Reverend Brother John O'Neil** on behalf of Lister Hospital East and North Herts NHS Trust and Interfaith community gave speeches.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's Mother's 06th Year Remembrance Ceremony and Father's 07th Dana: on 05th February 2022:

While Venerable Akurala Samitha was in Sri Lanka, he hosted a special dana Ceremony to mark the **07th Day Passing Merits** in memory of his father and in memory of his mother to mark the **06th year on 05th February 2022** at his residence in Sri Lanka. **Most Venerable Kosgoda Subhuthi Naya Thero** (Head Monk of Sangharaja Maha Vihara, Randombe Sri Lanka and Deputy Chief Prelate of Amarapura Siri Saddhammawansa Maha Nikaya) delivered the Dhamma talk on **04th February 2022**. Over **50 Monks** from local temples attended the dana ceremony. Among them, **Most Venerable Ahungalle Seelavisuddhi Maha Nayaka Thero**, **Most Venerable Hunupola Shanthadeva Thero**, and **Most Venerable Akuratiye Nanada Thero** delivered Dhamma Talks.

Dry Food Parcels Distribution in Sri Lanka: on 02nd March 2022: Venerable

Akurala Samitha also organized a special charity event to distribute 50 dry food parcels to needy families in Sri Lanka in **loving memory of the beloved mother** on **02nd March 2022** to mark the very day of 6th Year Remembrance of Loving Mother. Dana (food) was also offered the local Buddhist centres in **Akurala** and **Kalutara** in **Sri Lanka**.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's Parents Remembrance Dana Ceremony in UK: Saturday 26th March 2022

Community of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist centre organized a special dana merits sharing ceremony in loving memory of **Venerable Akurala Samitha's parents** on **Saturday 26th March 2022** at **Free Church Hall**, Gernon Road Letchworth SG6 3HS. **Over 18 Monks** representing all the Buddhist Temples in UK attended to grace the ceremony. **Over 250 devotees** of the centre attended to the ceremony. This was held to mark three important events. Transfer Merits to Late Father **Mr Sobhanahandi Siripala De Silva** on **03rd Month** and **Late Mother Mrs Dedimuni Dasawathi Mendis on 6th Year** and also to mark the **50th Birthday of Venerable Bhante Akurala Samitha**.

Special Tribute to Our Devoted and Dedicated Members of the Centre:

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep (30-12-1935 and 16-07-2021):

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep was a founder member and long standing trustee of the centre. From

the beginning till to the last date she took the position of Honourable Secretary and rendered yeoman service to the centre and the community. She started having health issues and Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne regularly visited her at home and also at hospital and nursing home. We managed to make every blessings and gratitude as she was a strong supporter of the monks, community and the centre. A special blessing was held at her house before she leaves to nursing home on **10th May 2021** by Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne.

She was admitted to **Trembaths Nursing home** (specialist care for dementia) at **Talbot**

Way, Norton Letchworth SG6 1UA. It was a very hard time for her as she used to live with friends and family. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne visited weekly. One of the staff at the nursing home Mrs Tracey Duxbury is a Buddhist and also member of our Buddhist Meditation Centre. It was a great company for her. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** and **Miss Padma Wijeratne** did a special blessing for her on **01st June 2021** and **06th and 15th July 2021** at the nursing home. Few hours later, in the early hours of **16th July 2021**, **Mrs Rathnawalie Dep** passed away very peacefully. May she attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!

Our temple community were very saddened to hear the loss. All in the community were

grateful for her dedication and commitments towards the community work. We hosted a special dana remembrance service

to mark the **07th Day merits transfer on 26th July 2021**. **Most Venerable Dr Data Sir Sumanasiri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia, Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero, Most Venerable Bambarabotuwe Anandamangala Thero, Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** (London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre) and **Most Venerable U Sumangalo Thero** attended the dana merits sharing ceremony. **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha** conducted the ceremony. Miss Padma Wijeratne and all the members actively engaged organizing the ceremony. A large number of community attended the ceremony to join with the family members to share the loss.

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep's funeral took place on **12th August 2021** at **Harwood Park Crematorium,**

Stevenage. **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Nayaka Thero, Most Venerable Bhikkhu Assaji Thero, Most Venerable Dr Dato Sir Sumanasiri Nayaka Thero, Most Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero and Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** attended the funeral

service. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** conducted the service. A large number of devotees attended the service. **Miss Padma Wijeratne and Mrs Khushlani Dep** organized the funeral service. Her rained ashes were placed at **Wilbury Hill Cemetery**, Stotfold Road, Stotfold Letchworth on **16th September 2021**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended on behalf of the centre to do the blessings at the occasion of resting the ashes.

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep was also remembered on **16th October 2021** to mark the third months of her passing away. Special Dana offering and merits transfer was done at the centre with the participation of her close family and friends.

Special Tribute to Our Devoted and Dedicated Members of the Centre:

Mr Frederick Charles Day (26-07-1935 and 15-10-2021):

Mr Frederick (fondly known as Fredie) was born on **26th July 1935** in Letchworth Garden

City. He worked as a Food specialist in abroad especially in Asia for over 50 years. He returned back to Letchworth Garden City in 2010 to settle in the village where his parents were and he was brought up. Ever since he become a very dedicated member who regular attended our services. He had a great faith in what we do in Buddhist Teachings, Mental Health, Counselling, Meditation and Cultural activities.

He became a good friend of Venerable Bhante Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratne and all the members of the centre. He always liked what we did in the local community and deeply

appreciate about them. He also benefited from our meditation, chanting and other welfare services. He maintained a good relationship with few charities in Nepal, India and Malaysia.

Venerale Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended to him regularly at his residence and also in hospital to look after his welfare and did blessings. He greatly appreciated the blessings and meditation and emotional support given to him. He passed away on **15th October 2021** at Lister Hospital. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijerathna visited him on the previous night before he passed away at hospital. He enjoyed the blessings and also seeing us. We took lots of effort by visiting hospital and also home to take best care of his welfare until the last day. He is greatly missed. We wish **Mr Frederick Charles Day (our Fredie) A Supreme Bliss of Nibbana!**

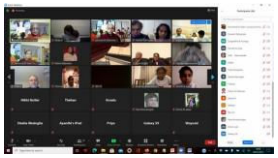
Full Moon Day and Monthly Retreat Sessions: 24th April 2021

Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya hosted a day programme to mark the **Bak (April) Full Moon Poya Day** on **Saturday 24th April 2021**. **Mr Rajitha & Mrs Seedevi Kuruppu and family and Mrs Kanthi Silva; Daughter Dr Tina Fernando, Son-in-law Dr Sangeeth Fernando, Grand Children Josuwa & Benjamin & Family; t**o share blessings to **Mrs Kanthi Silva** all the family and friends; to share merits with **Mr Felix Silva** and all the parents and relatives**. Mrs Kumudu Gunasekara and Family; Mrs Gayathri and Mr Andrew Clarke and family** co-sponsored the day programme in memory of their late parents and relative and also so to bless everyone. A large number of members attended online and onsite with meditation, pooja, homage blessings and dhamma talks.

Vap (October) Full Moon Poya Day was on **Saturday 16th October 2021**, Our centre celebrated the October full moon poya day with chanting blessings.

November (ILL) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Saturday 28th November 2021** at the centre.

Uduvap (December) Full Moon Poya was on **Saturday 18th December 2021**. Centre organized a year end merits sharing pooja. This full Moon Poya Day programme was sponsored by **Mr Darshana, Mrs Harshani Weerasingha, Daughters Stesha & Shennon & Family**. Wishing all the protection & good health to **Mr Lakshitha Karunarathna**. To share blessings with **Mrs Diana Weerasinghe, Daughter Dilsadi Kaveesha, Daughter Lakshika Mahi, Son Yasiru Induwara, Daughter Nethu Akarsha and all in the family**.



Duruth (January) Full Moon Poya Day: Saturday 22nd January 2022: Duruthu Poya Full Moon Day is the first full moon poya day of the New Year. Centre organized a special dhamma discussion, meditation session and a chanting of protection blessings Bodhi pooja on **Saturday 22nd January 2022** to mark the Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day. A large number of

devotees joined online to the programme. This full moon poya Day was sponsored by (1). **Miss Padma Wijeratna and Family;** To Wish A Very Happy Birthday to Miss Padma Wijeratna on 25th January; Sharing merits to parents and all relatives. (2). **Mr Indunil Muthukumara, Dulitha Muthukumara, Lewmini Muthukumara, Hesha Rajapaksha, Janani Rajapaksha, Priyani Rajapaksha and Family;** In Loving Memory of Muriyel Thisera Sandanayake (28-12-2021) and Mr Jathissa Perera (26-06-1987) to Transfer Merits.

Navam (February) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **19th February 2022**. This was sponsored by (1). **Mrs Sangeetha & Mr Asanga Agalakotuwa and Family**; To Transfer Merits on 72nd Birthday to Loving Mother Late Mrs Suranjini Seneviratne and share merits with all the departed relatives and friends; Transfer merits to Loving Father of Venerable Akurala Samitha, Mr Siripala De Silva; May They All Attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana! To share blessings to parents Dr Banda Seneviratne, Mr Sarath & Mrs Monika Agalakotuwa and the whole family and friends. (2). **Mrs Ramya Cooke and Family**. To transfer merits in loving memory of her beloved father Mr Nicholas George de Silva Gunawardane, Loving mother, late Mrs Piyawadana Gunawardane, late brother Mr Asiri Devapriya Gunawardane, Brother in law Mr Sarath de Silva, Cousin Sister Mrs Malini Weerasekera and all departed relatives and friends.

Wishing A Very Happy 79th Birthday on 28th February to **Mrs Niranjala Perera**. Wishing A Very Happy 14th Birthday to Grand Daughters Ayjha Soden (7th February) and Tamara Kaluarachchi (14th February). Blessings for good health and success of the education of Marvin, Tamara, Ayjah and Maya and All Children. To transfer merits to beloved parents: Late Mr Bastian Fernando, Mrs Somawati Fernando, Sisters: Mrs Sunimal Fernando, Mrs Shivanthi Coory and Brother: Mr Lakshman Fernando. To transfer merits to Loving father of Ven Bhante Akurala Samith: Mr Siripala De Silva. May all departed share these merits and May they all attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana. Sharing blessings to Venerable Akurala Samitha and all monks at Dhamma Nikethanaya.

Madin (March) Full Moon Poya Day was held on **Saturday 19th March 2022**. This Programme was sponsored by **Mr Sumedha Amalka Hewa Naimanage, Mrs Nilanthi, Son Asel Sadaham, Son Nethil Sasrutha, Son Visal Damsara & Family**. To receive the blessings on A Very Happy 10th Wedding Anniversary to Mr Sumedha Amalka & Mrs Nilanthi. To Wish a Very Happy 05th Birthday (22nd March) to Son Nethil Sasruth. Wishing Sons Asel and Visal blessings of good luck blessings. To Transfer merits to Amalka's loving father, Mr H N Somarathna, Venerable Akurala Samitha's father, Mr Sobhanahandi Siripala De Silva and all departed relatives and friends. May all future Businesses be successful! To share the blessings to both side mothers, father of Mrs Nilanthi and all the family. (2) **Mrs Niranjala Perera and Family**. Wishing A Very Happy 79th Birthday on 28th February to Mrs Niranjala Perera. Wishing A Very Happy 14th Birthday to Grand Daughters Ayjha Soden (7th February) and Tamara Kaluarachchi (14th February). Blessings for good health and success of the education of Marvin, Tamara, Ayjah and Maya and All Children. To transfer merits to beloved parents: Late Mr Bastian Fernando, Mrs Somawati Fernando, Sisters: Mrs Sunimal Fernando, Mrs Shivanthi Coory and Brother: Mr Lakshman Fernando. To transfer merits to Loving father of Ven Bhante Akurala Samith: Mr Siripala De Silva. May all departed share these merits and May they all attain Supreme Bliss of Nibbana. Sharing blessings to Venerable Akurala Samitha and all monks at Dhamma Nikethanaya.

School Children Visit The Buddhist Centre for 2021/2022:

On 31st March 2022, **The Parker E-Act Academy, Ashby Road, Daventry** Northamptonshire contacted Venerable Akurala Samitha do to five lessons on Buddhism, Meditation, Daily activities, Buddhist Festivals and culture year 7 children. Mr Andrew Dunkley, Personal Development Lead, Teacher of Humanities organized it. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the programme with Venerable Dammala Piyananda Thero and Miss Padma Wijeratne.

Nursing Home Visit:

Vising nursing homes and providing spiritual care is one of the activities we deliver from our centre**. Venerable Akurala Samitha** and **Padma Wijeratne** visited **Quantum Care Nursing Home Providence Court at Baldock** on **Friday 10th March 2023** to see **Ms Mary Moncaster**. She was a Buddhist and wanted to have some blessings on her birthday. She was admitted to the nursing home recently and struggling a lot emotionally. She was very grateful for our visit and overall support she gets from our centre.

Training & Higher Education Programmes for Members of the Organization:

Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne completed **a Diploma Course in Education and Training (DET- BTEC Level 5) (Awarding Institution: Pearson Education)** at **London School of Management Education (LSME)**. Course started 14th January 2021 and completed 13th January 2022. Graduation Ceremony will take place on 06th May 2022.

Sri Lankan Independent Day was celebrated on Saturday 05th February 2022:

Sri Lankan National Day is on 04th February. Centre community celebrated the **Sri Lankan Independence Day** on Saturday **05th February 2022** and commemorates the **74th Anniversary** for being an independent republic. In 1948 Sri Lanka received its sovereignty from Great Britain. Our centre organized a special pooja blessing to bring all Sri Lankan together and celebrated their cultural and patriotic values. Dhamma school children made

wonderful presentations to reflect the rich knowledge about the subject. It was a highly educational programme.

New Round up 2021-2022:

Venerable Akurala Samitha attended few events, extending Our Services and Valuable Contributions of Venerable Akurala Samitha to other temples and organizations in UK.

- **On 28th April 2021 Most Venerable Kamburawala Rewatha Nayaka Thero**, Head of Scotland Buddhist Vihara **celebrated 50th Birthday**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero attended to the online programme and gave a talk. Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Thero organized it. Sri Lanka High Commissioner Her Excellency Mrs Saroja Sirisena also attended.

- **On 16th May 2021** Most Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a **Dhamma Talk** on zoom to the community of **Stroke-On-Trent Buddhist Vihara**. Mr Sujeeva Herath, Mr Mangala Hettiarachchi, Mr Sarath Wijesiri and Mrs Ranuri Ariyarathna sponsored the programme.

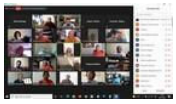
- **16th May 2021 Vesak Buddha Day Celebration 2565** oranzied by **Global** **Ambedkarite Convention**. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the ceremony and gave a talk.

- **On 02nd and 22nd May 2021 and Mr Arun Chauhan and Mrs Florance Enache** got married. Special blessings ceremony was held at the centre on **02nd May 2021**. Wedding Ceremony was held on **22nd May 2021** at Boldock. Venerable Akurala Samitha, Venerable Dato' Sir Dr Sumanasiri and Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero attended the ceremony. Mrs Pushpa and Mr Des Raj Chauhan organized it.

- **On 23rd May 2021 Bedford Said Centre** hosted a **Vesak Buddha Jayanthi Celebration**. Most Venerable Dato' Sir Dr Sumanasiri gave a talk on **Happiness in Buddhism**, representing Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya.

- **On 23rd May 2021 Sai Centre in East London** organized a **Vesak Buddha Jayanthi** **Celebration**. Most Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and gave a talk on **journey in the middle path for awakening and right mindfulness**.

- **On 25th July 2021** Venerable Akurala Samitha gave **a special Dhamma Talk** to the community of **Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara**. The talk was organized by **Most Venerable Dr Witharandeniye Kassapa Nayaka Thero** and sponsored by **Mr Thilak Bandara, Mrs Sajitha Siriwardana, Mr Chinthaka Samaraweera, Mrs Nayani De Silva** and families.

- **18th July 2021 Mr Chandana Gunasekera** hosted an event to introduce his new  publication, the poem book named "**Makuluvo; This is the Winter Season**". **Professor Praneeth Abeysundara**, **Professor Raj Somadeva**, **Mr Sudath Devapriya** and **Most Venerable Batuwangala Rahula Thero** made the key note speaches. Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero attended.

- **31st July 2021 Thames Buddhist Vihara 40th Anniversary:** Venerable Akurala Samitha attended with Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero to the whole night pirith chanting and following day dana ceremony.

- **06th August 2021 Hiroshima Day Lanterns:** Venerable Akurala Samitha, Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero and Revered Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Thero attended annual **Hiroshima Day Ceremony and floating of candle-lit Laterns of Willen Lake**, organized by Peace Pagoda Buddhist Temple, Willen Lake Milton Keynes. The ceremony seeks to reflect on the horrors of war in an atomic age, to remember those who have died, and to pray together for peace and harmony between all people and nations.

- **21st August 2021 Late Reverend Handa Shoni's 15th death anniversary** **remembrance merits transfer ceremony** was held at Japanese Peace Pagoda Milton Keynes. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended for the ceremony and the dana.

- **23rd August 2021 Reveredn Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** hosted a ceremony to mark his **57th Monkhood Anniversary Celebration** on **23rd August 2021** at **Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya**. **Professor T S Abeywickrame** (retired solicitor, poet and Dhamma Speaker) and **Engineer Mr Vidya Amarapala** (B.Sc, Ph.D. Candidate, Bolton University U.K. Former Government Advisor to Ministry of Megapolis Colombo, World renewable energy specialist) gave the key note speeches. **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala, Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana, Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha and Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala** attended. Most **Venerable Akurala Samitha** conducted the pooja ceremony.

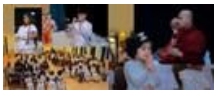
- **On 27th August 2021** Most Venerable Akurala Samitha attended **Stroke-On-Trent** **Buddhist Vihara** to give a **Dhamma Talk** to the community. **Mr Menik & Shamila Perera, Mr Ravi & Mrs Achi De Silva, Mr Dinesh Cooray, Mrs Melani Atapatthu, Mr Shantha Disanayaka and Mrs Nelum Wickramanayaka** and families sponsored the dhamma programme.

- **07th September 2021 Reverend Sooriyawewa Kusala** Thero hosted a dana ceremony to mark the 07th Day Remembrace in loving memory of grandmother who passed away in Sri Lanka at Letchworth Buddhist Vihara. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the ceremony.

- **18th September 2021 London Vihara 157th Birthday Day of Anagarika Dharmapala The Founder of London Buddhist Vihara & 95th Anniversary of The London Buddhist Vihara Celebrated Saturday 18th September 2021**. A Memorial lecture, and paritta chanting was held at the Vihara on Saturday 18th September 2021. The programme commenced with garlanding the bust of Anagarika Dharmapala at the Vihara, by the **Deputy High Commissioner of the Sri Lanka High Commission in the UK, Mr Samantha Pathirana**. The Memorial Lecture on the topic **"Buddhism, Cosmic Life, and Future Prospects for Humanity"** was delivered by **Prof. Chandra Wickramasinghe** using zoom facility. Chanting of paritta was led by twelve senior monks from a number of Buddhist temples in England. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** attended the ceremony. Maha Paritta Chanting and following day morning dana was held to transfer of merits to Anagarika Dharmapala.

- **20th September 2021 Little Buckingham Clinic Opening Ceremony**: Venerable Akurala Samitha, Most Venerable Dato' Sir Sumanasiri and Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero joined for a blessings to open a new clinic in Buckingham town centre. **Dr Sumudu Godagama and Dr Shantha Godagama** opened the clinic for **complimentary therapies** and organized the blessings.

- **21st November 2021 Tribute Pooja to Parents: Mr Sampath and Mrs Ama Nissanka** organized a public ceremony to bring all the children together to host a tribute to parents. This was held at **Purton Village Hall**, Station Road, Purtton in **Swindon** on **Sunday 21st November 2021**. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** conducted the programme. **Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero** also attended. Over 300 people attended. Hundreds of children lined up in front of their parents to share their respect and gratitude. It was a very moving programme.



- **17th December 2021 London School of Management Education Christmas Celebrateion**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne joined a year end celebration at London School of Management Education (LSME) to mark christma celebration.

- **15th January 2022: Late Mr Chandra Bahadur Nakarmi, Beloved father of Venerable Nepal Suman. Third Months Remembrace Dana Pinkama Merits Sharing** was held at **Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, Hendon**. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended and gave a talk at dana ceremony held in the memory of late beloved father of Venerable Nepal Sumana Thero on 15th January 2022. Venerable Nepal Sumana is the head monk of London Vipassana Mindfulness Meditation Centre.

- **16th January 2022: Bracknell Sri Lankan Shop**: **Mr Ajith Alwis** opened a shop for the community in Bracknell. Members of Bracknell Forest Council including **Councillor Mr Michael** joined the opening ceremony on 16th January 2022. Venrable Aurala Samitha conducted the blessings. Councillor Mr Michael deeply appreciated the way Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the blessings. He encouraged us to join Bracknell Forest Interfaith Forum and Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Bracknell.

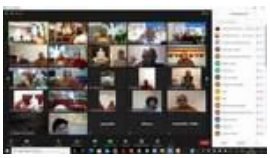
- **01st February 2022: Chinese New Year: Our Malasian community** celebrated the Chinese New Year **on 01st February 2022**. Mr Victor and Mrs Rosy Wong, Oon Hee, Jeasica, Darren, Jack, Theodore Fisher, Jason, Nadia and Emily Wong, Jeffrey and Olivia and Dr John Chin organized the event. Venerable Akurala Samitha and other resident monks conducted the blessings.

- **12th March 2022: 10th Wedding Anniversary of Mr Sumedha Amalka Hewa Naimanage and Mrs Nilanthi** was held at the centre with a blessing programme. Their three children Asel Sadaham, **Nethil Sasrutha (05th Birthday on 22nd March)** and Visal Damsara attended. Mr Amalka's late father Mr H N Somarathna also remembered.

Obituaries:

- **07th April 2021: Mrs Beatrice Monika Alahapperuma:** Beloved Mother of **Mr Janaka Alahapperum, Mrs Beatrice Monika Alahapperuma** passed away on 07th April 2021 in Sri Lanka. Mr Janaka Alahapperuma is a good friend of our centre. All the friends and British Sri Lanka Forum gathered at our centre to do a religious service on 08th April 2021. They also hosted a remembrance Dhamma Talk on 12th April 2021 and offered Dana on 13th April 2021 at the centre in memory of the loving mother to transfer merits.

- **26th April 2021: Most Venerable Dr Dickwelle Tissa Anu Nayaka Thero (19-03-1940 – 26-04-2021:** A special religious service was held on 26th April 2021 at the centre to transfer merits to Most Venerable Dr Dickwelle Tissa Anu Nayaka Thero, deputy prelate of Amarapura Siri Saddhammawansa Maha Nikaya, Founder of Damsathara TV Channel, Head of Matara Wevurukannala Budu Raja Maha Vehera and Kalavidu. Venerable Akurala Samitha arranged religious ceremony.



Departed Anu Nayaka Thera is the Head teacher of our resident monk, **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thera**. Our resident monk, Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thera was residing at our temple in UK and does a great service at this pandemic time sharing his knowledge and life experience to support to the community spiritually and morally. He could not

go to Sri Lanka to attend the funeral due to travel restrictions. Therefore, Letchworth & Miltion Keynes Buddhist Centres organized this special merits sharing ceremony to mark the seventh day pinkama wishing Anu Nayaka Thera The Bliss of Nibbana.!

Special Remembrance Merits Sharing Ceremony to mark the seventh day was organized by Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thera, Head Monk of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre and Milton Keynes Vihara together with all the devotees and members of both vihara.

This special ceremony was honoured with the participation of eminent Buddhist Monks representing all Buddhist Centres in the United Kingdom. Among them, (1). **Most Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala Sangha Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of London Buddhist Vihara, Chief Prelate of United Kingdom and Honourable President of Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of United Kingdom. (2). **Most Venerable Dr Handupelpola Mahinda Nayaka Thera** representing Most Venerable Aggamaha Panditha Galayaye Piyadassi Sangha Nayaka Thera, Head Monk of Kingsbury Sri Saddhatissa International Buddhist Centre and Chief Prelate of United Kingdom attended together with Most Venerable Galayaye Dhammadassi Thera and Most Venerable Godamunne Piyananda Thera. (3). **Most Venerable Dr Witharandeniye Kassapa Sangha Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of Birminham Buddhist Maha Vihara, Leicester Dharmasoka Buddhist Vihara and Stroke-on-Trent Buddhist Vihara, Honourable Vice President of Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of United Kingdom and deputy prelate of United Kingdom. (4). **Most Venerable Keppitiyagoda Gunawansa Sangha Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of Birminham Jethavana Buddhist Centre and Liverpool Sambodhi Buddhist Centre and Chief Prelate of United Kingdom. (5). **Most Venerable Makure Mangala Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of East London Lumbini Maha Vihara and Honourable Vice President of Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of United Kingdom. (6). **Most Venerable Kamburawala Sri Rewatha Sangha Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of Scotland Buddhist Vihara and Senior Lecturer of Glasgo University and Chief Prelate of United Kingdom. (7). **Most Reverend Dr Sumana Siri Sangha Nayaka Thera** of Singapore Malaysia, Founder of International Reality Organization and Chief Prelate of Singapore and Malaysia. (8). **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Temple. (9). **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thera**, deputy head monk of Letchworth Buddhist Temple. (10). **Most Venerable Teldeniyaye Amitha Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of Nottingham Shanthi Buddhist Centre attended together with all resident monks. (11). **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Centre. (12). **Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanara Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre. (13). **Most Venerable Bambarabotuwe Ananda Mangala Nayaka Thera**, Senior Committee member of Amarapura Rassagala Chapter Sangha Sabha and Honourable Vice Secretary of Sri Lankan Sangha Sabha of United Kingdom. (14). **Most Venerable Kohukumbure Siridhamma Thera**, Deputy Head Monk of Thames Buddhist Vihara. (15). **Most Venerable Dr Rambukwelle Devananda Nayaka Thera**, Head Monk of Berlin Sambodhi Buddhist Centre and Head Monk of Gampaha Sadhananda Piriven Buddhist Centre. (16). **Most Venerable Gonulle Assaji Nayaka Thera**. (17). **Most Venerable Rajakeeya Panditha Bogahapitiye Dharma Sri Gnana Nayaka Thera**,

Teacher of Gampaha Vidyawansa Pirivena. Among other Honourable Guests, Deputy High Commissioner Mr Samantha Pathirana, London Sri Lankan High Commission also attended the ceremony.

- **20th May 2021: Mr Dilal Thilakaratne (02/08/1968 – 11/12/2020): Burial Service** of Mr Dilal Thilakaratne was held on 20th May 2021 at South Chapel, Hendon Crematorium. As his wife and children could not get the visa to come to pay their final respect, it was delayed. His daughter and son could not get the visa but his wife Mrs Dilrukshi came to the burial. Mr Brixcious Anthony organized the ceremony. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the religious service. A large number of his friends attended the funeral.

- **30th May 2021: Most Venerable Baddegama Samitha Thero (1952 – 30/05/2021)** Revd. Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Thero of Singapore Malaysia organized memorial service on **05th June 2021** to transfer merits Most Venerable Baddegama Samitha Thero, who passed away on **30th May 2021** from Covid-19. He was a great humanist. Since 1976 he was a student activist who studied "Buddhism and Christian Culture" at Kelaniya university, later World Religions in the UK at Lancaster University. Without discrimination on his services like Tsunami and Covid-19, at all times was for all races and all religions. This frank and braved Buddhist monk was not only a council member of the Southern Province of Sri Lanka but made history becoming the first Buddhist Monk Member of Parliament in 2001. He hailed from the Galle District.

- **13th June 2021: Dr Saliya Jayaratne (25/04/1976 – 13/06/2021):** The son of Mr B A Jayaratne and Mrs Mallika Jayaratne and the brother of Dr Aishwarya Navarro and Mr Fernando Navarro, Uncle of Oliver and Maya passed away by an accident on 13th June 2021. **Dr Saliya Jayaratne's** funeral was held on **10th July 2021** at **Oxford Crematorium**, Oxford. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the funeral service. Most Venerable Tawalama Bandula Thero, Most Venerable Dr Sumana Siri Thero, Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero attended the funeral.

- **09th June 2021: Mrs Suseela Aryadasa**: passed away at the age 89. She is the wife of late **Mr P L Karunasena** and mother of **Mrs Sujata and Mr Gamini**. **The Chief Prelate of The U.K and Europe, Most Reverend Dr Dato' Sumana Siri Nayaka Thera of Singapore Malaysia** organized **7th Day Merits Transfer** In Memory of **Mrs Suseela Aryadasa & Mrs Galewala Menike Hamine Rathnayake** on **Wednesday 23rd June 2021** at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Maha Thera, Most Reverend Dr "Dato" Sumana Siri Singapore Malaysia, Most Venerable Panditha Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thera, Most Venerable Batuwangala Rahula Nayaka Thera, Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thera and Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thera attended the ceremony.

- **16th July 2021: Mrs Rathnawalie Dep (30-12-1935 and 16-07-2021):** Mrs Rathnawalie Dep passed away on **16th July 2021**. Her funeral was held on **12th August 2021**. Full details of her were mentioned on this report above.

- **21st August 2021: Mrs Gejo Dass (01-01-1939 | 21-08-2021):** Mrs Gejo

Dass was a very close and long standing devotee of the centre. She passed away peacefully at Lister Hospital on 21st August 2021. Venerable Akurala Samitha visited the hospital and did the blessings. Funeral was held on **Wednesday 08th September 2021** at North Hertfordshire Memorial Park Crematorium Bedford Road Hitchin. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the funeral service.

- **24th August 2021: Mr Nalin Somapala**: A relative of Reverend Dato' Sir Dr

Sumana Siri, Mr Nalin Somapala passed away on 24th August 2021. He is the 3rd son of the late **Mrs Chitra & Mr P L A Somapala** (Household singers since 1952). 7th Day Memorial Merits Transfer was held to remember him on 31st August 2021 at the centre.

- **28th August 2021: Venerable Dr Bhikkhuni Kusuma**: Internationally

acclaimed Buddhist scholar Bhikkhuni Dr Kusuma (92) passed away on Saturday 28th August 2021 night at a private hospital in Colombo. Author of several books Venerable Bhikkhuni Kusuma represented Sri Lanka at a number of international Buddhist conferences and was considered a mother figure among the Theravada Buddhist nuns across the globe. She was also the Abbess of the Ayya Khema International Meditation Centre, in Horana. A heartfelt tribute was made with special merits transfer religious service at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre on 06th September 2021. Bhikkhuni Kusuma, Ph.D. was a fully ordained bhikkhuni from Sri Lanka who pioneered the re-establishment the Theravada Female Buddhist Order in Sri Lanka, 1000 years after the Order died out. She took upon herself the task of carrying on the efforts of her mentor, Sister Ayya Khema , in establishing the Ayya Khema International Buddhist Mandir in Sri Lanka. She lived at Prajapati Meditation Centre, Batawala, Padukka, Sri Lanka. **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sir Sumanasiri**, **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero**, **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero**, Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero and **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** attended the merits transfer ceremony.

- **15th August 2021: Mr Frederick Charles Day (26/07/1935 – 15/10/2021):** Mr Frederick Charles Day was a very close friend and dedicated member of the centre. He passed away on **15th August 2021** at Lister Hospital. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne attended the blessings. Full details about this were mentioned on above of this report.

- **28th October 2021 Dr Phuoc Ho:** Funeral took place on **26th November 2021** at **Cambridge Crematorium**. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** and **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero** attended the funeral. **Dr Phuong Ho** and **Mrs Dr Phuoc Ly** trained as doctors in Vietnam, and then they escaped the communist regime and became "boat people". After arriving in Hong Kong they were re-settled in the UK and came to live in Cambridge in the early 1980s. Dr Phuong worked for many years in Cambridge as an acupuncturist and she is famous for her generosity and kindness. She is a long-term student of Thich Nhat Hanh, while her husband was more interested in Theravada and he travelled to Thailand to attend retreats with Phra Acharn Tong. They also invited Acharn Tong to their house in Cambridge where he led a Vipassana retreat. Dr Phuoc Ho developed Parkinsons Disease and for the last few years he had been very very ill and hadn't been able to walk or talk. He died in Addenbrookes Hospital at 8am on Thursday 28 October. Mrs Dr Phuong Ly was with him and he died meditating on "knowing, knowing". They have a son who is a GP in Cambridge, and a young grand-daughter. Funeral was organized by Mr David and Mrs Rachel.

- **04th November 2021: Mrs Srima Kadurugamuwa:** Loving Mother of Mr Nuwan and family, **Mrs Srima Kadurugamuwa** passed away **04th November 2021**. She was a very close devotee of the monks. On behalf of her, family took the principal sponsorship of annual kathina ceremony. This year Kathina ceremony was dedicated to transfer merits into her good name.

- **05th November 2021: Most Venerable Murungagasyaye Gnanissara Nayaka Thero:** The Chief Incumbent of Jethawanarama in Paris, The Chief Judicial Prelate in France and Malwathu Chapter of the Shyamopali Maha Nikaya, former Senior lecturer at Vidyodaya Pirivena, Maligakanda, Rajakeeya Panditha Most Venerable Dr. Murungasyaye Gnanissara Nayaka Thera passed away in Sri Lanka on **Friday 05th November 2021**. A Special tribute merits transfer was held at the centre.

- **15th November 2021: Mr Sarwan Dass (15/08/1937 – 15/11/2021**): Mr Sarwan Dass came to UK in 1965 and ever since lived in Letchworth. Being married to Mrs Gejo Dass, he had seven children (Resham Kaur, Narinder Pal, Mohindero, Hem Raj, usha, Nirmala and Sanjeev) and 18 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He was a very dedicated Buddhist and a strong supporter of the Buddhist Centre. He passed away on 15th November 2021. Funeral took place at North Hertfordshire Crematorium on **Wednesday 1st December 2021**. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the ceremony.

- **01st December 2021: Mr Douglas Wickramaratne (09/04/1938 – 01-12-2021):** The perpetual patriot, **Mr Douglas Wickramaratne** passed away on **01st December 2021** and funeral took place on **14th December 2021** at West Chapel of Golders Green Crematorium in London. He dedicated for the Sri Lankan

nation by establishing Sinhala Assoication in 1977 in UK. British Sri Lankan Forum arranged a tribute merits transferring ceremony on **26th December 2021** at the centre. Mr Janaka Alahapperuma organized the event. Most Venerable Dr Witharandeniye Kassapa Thero, Most Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala, Most Venerable Paravehera Chandarathana Nayaka Thero and many monks attended the ceremony. Professor Nalin De Silva gave the key note speech. Dr M B Rathnayaka gave the word of thank. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the merits transfer.

- **23rd December 2021: Mr Alankarage Arnest Indrapala De Silva:**

Beloved father of **Mrs Hansika and Mrs Madavee**, **Mr Alankarage Arnest Indrapala De Silva** passed away **23rd December 2021**. Venerable Akurala Samitha visited him on previous day and did the blessings. 7th Day dana was held at Mrs Hansika's house on **31st December 2021**. His funeral was held on **17th January 2022** at North Oxfordshire Crematorium Tackley Kidlington. Venerable Akurala Samitha, Most Venerable Keppitiyagoda Gunawansa, Most Venerable Mapalagama Soratha and few other monks joined the funeral ceremony.

- **06th January 2022: Master Vanantorn Foowangmor 'Onglee'**

(29/12/2003 – 06/01/2022): Master Vanantorn Foowangmor passed away 06th January 2022 and funeral took place on **Friday 25th February 2022** at **Harwood Park Crematorium**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne joined funeral with Reverend Selina Evans and Ajahn Kongrit.

- **27th January 2022: Mr Sobhana Handi Siripala De Silva (05/05/1922 – 27/01/2022):** Loving father of Venerable Akurala Samitha, Mr Susantha Chandralal, Mrs Lakmali Iresha, Mr Ajantha Prethilal; **Mr Sobhana Handi Siripala De Silva** passed away on **27th January 2022**. His funeral took place on **29th January 2022** and 7th day dana was held on **02nd February 2022**. A large number of monks and devotees joined the ceremony. A detailed report was included above in this report.

- **03rd February 2022: Most Venerable Homagama Kondanna Maha**

Thero (03/02/2022 – 15/04/1939): Most Venerable Homagama Kondanna Maha Thero was one of the best-known monks for Buddhist missionary work overseas, mentor and a meditation teacher. He passed away on **Thursday 03rd February 2022** at London. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the funeral on **Monday 7th March 2022** at **Feltham Crematorium Hounslow**.

Mindfulness Meditation Programmes:

Lister Hospital Mindfulness Meditation Programmes: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne visit **Lister Hospital East & North Herts NHS Trust** to do regular weekly mindfulness meditation sessions. Venerable Akurala Samitha trained staff and patient and facilitates drop in sessions. Every Thursday 5-6PM regular drop in mindfulness session takes place at the hospital.

Mindfulness Webinars hosted by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya:

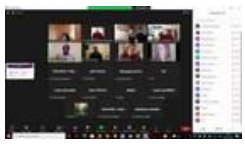
Our Centre organized regular webinars to bring professionals, scholars and wellbeing practitioners together to share the knowledge. It was a great support for the community.

Webinar on Sunday 25th April 2021 on "Buddhist Psychology: Encountering the world through Buddhist Therapeutic Approaches:" By Reverend Caroline Brazier: Monthly

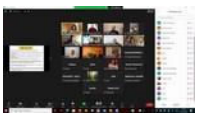
Webinar was delivered by Reverend Caroline Brazier. Reverend Caroline Brazier has been the course leader of the Tariki Psychotherapy Training Programmes since 1996. She is retiring this summer from this role but will continue to teach on the Ten Directions training programme in ecotherapy. Author of seven books on Buddhism, psychotherapy and ecotherapy as well as many papers and articles, Caroline is a BACP Accredited psychotherapist. Caroline originally trained as a teacher and has worked extensively in education, community health and with women's groups. She is an ordained Jodo Shinshu Buddhist priest (Japanese Pure Land Buddhism). She has a lifelong interest in nature and loves camping and walking in wild spaces. Caroline has three adult children. A large number of people attended online and had a very beneficial discussion.

Webinar on Sunday 27th June 2021: On Finding true happiness within you. Positive Psychology and Mindfulness: by Dr Kamal Witharana (MD, MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI). Dr Kamal Witharana is a Medical Doctor in Public Health & Clinical Lecturer in UK; Divisional Director of Health Service in Sri Lanka; Associate Member of Positive Psychology Guild UK, Member of Pali Text Society & Mindfulness Meditation Researcher & Teacher. His webinar on finding true happiness within you. Positive psychology and mindfulness was very well received by our members. A good number of people attended online.

Webinar on Sunday 28th November 2021: On "What is your real self? Mindfulness: Five aggregates of clinging." By Dr Kamal Witharana (MD, MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI). Dr Kamla Witharana delieved the second of the series of webinars. He was able to give lots of references to understand the real self in everyone of us. A large number of devotees attended the webinar and appreciated such opportunity to ask questions and live talks.



Webinar on Sunday 19th December 2021: on "How to overcome distractions and stay focus? Mindfulness and Five Hindrances." By Miss Padma Wijeratna (B.A, BSc.,): Miss Padma Wijeratne is a Mindfulness Meditation Teacher, Secretary of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre and also a very active member of our centre community. Many people attended the webinar and everyone found it very useful.



Webiar On Sunday 06th March 2022: On A Series of Four Talks on Dependent Origination. **The Circle of Birth and Death; Dependent Origination**. By **Dr Kamal Witharana** (MD,

MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI) (Medical Doctor in Public Health & Clinical Lecturer in UK; Divisional Director of Health Service in Sri Lanka; Associate Member of Positive Psychology Guild UK, Member of Pali Text Society & Mindfulness Meditation Researcher & Teacher). Everyone enjoyed the webinar and appreciated the opportunity. A large number of listerners joined the programme.

Webinar On Sunday 13th March 2022: On A Series of Four Talks on Dependent Origination. **The Mental Formation & Consciousness; Dependent Origination**. By **Dr Kamal Witharana** (MD, MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI) (Medical Doctor in Public Health & Clinical Lecturer in UK; Divisional Director of Health Service in Sri Lanka; Associate Member of Positive Psychology Guild UK, Member of Pali Text Society & Mindfulness Meditation Researcher & Teacher). Everyone enjoyed the webinar and appreciated the opportunity. A large number of listerners joined the programme.

Webinar on Sunday 20th March 2022: on A Series of Four Talks on Dependent Origination. **The Distinction between The Mental Formation & The Consciousness; Nature of Birth (re-arising). Dependent Origination**. By **Dr Kamal Witharana** (MD, MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI) (Medical Doctor in Public Health & Clinical Lecturer in UK; Divisional Director of Health Service in Sri Lanka; Associate Member of Positive Psychology Guild UK, Member of Pali Text Society & Mindfulness Meditation Researcher & Teacher). Everyone enjoyed the webinar and appreciated the opportunity. A large number of listerners joined the programme.

Webinar on Sunday 27th March 2022: On A series of four talks on Dependent Origination: Insight Path to free from cycle of stress: By Dr Kamal Witharana (MD, MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI). Everyone enjoyed the webinar and appreciated the opportunity. A large number of listerners joined the programme.

Mindfulness Meditation Courses and Psychotherapy Counselling Session:

Centre organizes Mindfulness Meditation Courses in **Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester**. It has been very beneficial to our multicultural community and those courses have been very popular. It also brought funds to the centre. Everyone deeply appreciated the wellbeing and happiness brought into their lives through teachings of Reverend Akurala Samithasiri (Bhante Samitha Akurala).

Mindfulness Meditation Retreats: Few One Day retreats were held in **Letchworth** during this year (2021-2022). Those were included from 6AM till 6PM whole day programme with silent meditation, guided meditation, mindfulness teaching, webinars, seminars, workshops, presentations, guest speakers, sharing lunch and discussions on selected topics. **One Day retreats** were held on **29th May 2021**, **06th January 2022** and **03rd March 2022** At Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Meditation Centre.

Seven Days Residential Retreat at London Kairos Spirituality and Conference Centre Harpenden. From 30th June 2021 till 07th July 2021. **Dr Shiroma Bandaranayake** oraganized a seven day retreat at Kairos Spirituality Centre. Venerable Akurala Samitha stayed during that seven days and provided talks and guided meditations. 25 people attended for the residential retreat.

Letchworth Children's Mindfulness Course is held on every **First Saturday from 3.30PM till 5PM**. Significant number of children attended the session. Parents had real interest to up keep the course as those are very beneficial to the children for concentration and dealing with emotional difficulties.

London School of Management Education: Mindfulness Sessions: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padma Wijeratne hosted few mindfulness sessions for the staff and the students of the college on 21st May, 05th December and 07th December 2021.

Milton Keynes College (MK College) Mindfulness Meditation Workshops on 24th November 2021: Venerable Akurala Samitha did a **Mindfulness Meditation Session at MK College, Chaffron Way to children aged 15-17** who had a horrid time but want to make a change. **Mr Simon Wendt** who is the tutor, organised the session with **Mrs Lisa Boyd**.

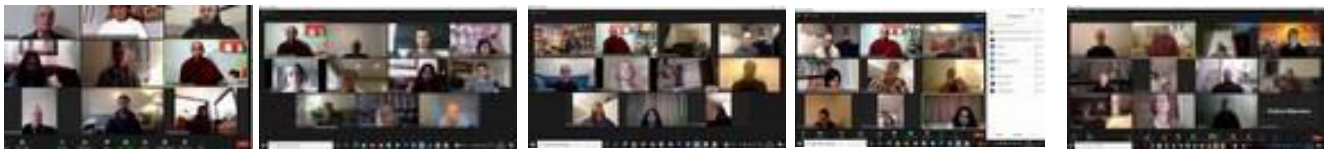
Jobs 22UK hosted Health Coach Mindfulness Session in Milton Keynes on 30th November 2021. **Mrs Linda Mather (Health Coach)** organized the session under the title "Time to Fly". Jobs 22UK is a group of health coaches that offer physical and psychological health interventions to those in the employability sector. They support clients in preparing and returning to work by providing them with helpful strategies to support this transition. They consist of psychotherapists, nurses and occupational therapists. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the session and it was very well recieved.

Letchworth Adults Beginners Mindfulness Courses:

Centre held **five courses** during this year for adults in Letchworth area. These were 08 weeks courses. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** dedicated a lot to keep these courses up and raise funds for the centre. We are very grateful for her volunteer support.

Letchworth Course I: Started: 29-04-2021 Finished: 17-06-2021
Letchworth course II: Started: 24-06-2021 Finished: 12-08-2021
Letchworth Course III: Started: 19-08-2021 Finished: 07-10-2021
Letchworth Course IV: Started: 14-10-2021 Finished: 02-12-2021
Letchworth Course V: Started: 06-01-2022 Finished: 24-02-2022

Following are the pictures from Letchworth Adults Mindfulness Meditation Courses 2021-2022.



Advanced Mindfulness Course: Every Wednesday 7-9PM Every Wednesday Advanced Mindfulness Course is being held at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. **Five groups** were completed during the whole year.

Letchworth Advanced Mindfullness Course I: Started: 28-04-2021 Finished: 16-06-2021
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course II: Started 23-06-2020 Finished 11-08-2021
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course III: Started 18-08-2021 Finished 06-10-2021
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course IV: Started 13-10-2021 Finished 01-12-2021
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course V: Started 05-01-2022 Finished 23-02-2022

Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester Mindfulness Meditation Beginners Courses:

We did not have onsite Mindfulness Meditation Sessions after the pandemic. Therefore Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester people joined online on Thursday and Wednesday. Quite a few them visited centre too.

All our Mindfulness Meditation courses had been very successful. It has been a great help to the community. These also enabled funds to the up keep the centre.

Sunday Drop In Mindfulness Meditation in Letchworth: Every Sunday evening 7-9PM we regularly host a session for the community to drop in for Mindfulness Meditation. With the outbreak of the pandemic, we hosted it online. It was a great success. **Dr Thura Limbin** and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** facilitate with teachings and hosting. It focuses on teachings from original sources and practice. It has been a very educational and our community has been benefiting from it. Different subjects were discussed and guide the community to attend the meditation regularly on every Sunday throughout the year.

Tuesday Drop In Mindfulness Meditation Session: **Mr Paul Goddad** facilitate the **Tuesday** evening **7.30-9PM** drop in session with **Miss Padma Wijeratne**. It focuses mainly on practice and questions and answers.

Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions:

Our Psychotherapy and Counselling Sessions were going very well. A good number of people regularly get the service. Venerale Akurala Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratne and Mr Mark Brumwell continued to provide the services. Few other professionals requested to join

the team. We provide online and also onsite sessions. Those sessions have brought good amount of funds to upkeep the centre.

Licence to Operate as a Buddhist Centre & A place of Worship:

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation granted Reverend Akurala Samithasiri "Licence to operate as a Buddhist Centre at 69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City". Also it is a place of worship.

TBSUK (Theravada Buddhist Sangha in United Kingdom) & Sri Lanka Monks Council UK:

Venerable Akurala Samitha and the centre is a member of the above organizations. **On 30th March 2022**, Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the annual general meeting of TBSUK.

School Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE): Venerable Akurala Samitha is the Buddhist Advisor to both Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. He contributes into the School Advisory Council for Religious Education as a member.

North Herts Interfaith Forum: Venerable Akurala Samitha is a committee member of the North Herts Interfaith Forum and contributes to its activities to bring cohesion among the faith groups.

Fund Raising Financial Insights of the Year 2021-2022:

All our courses and teaching programmes are on donation basis. We managed to raise funds to the centre as follows.

Following list is just a general outline to show how the donations received and expenses maintained. Please look into the accountant's report for more accurate figures.

Fund raising programmes:

- Beginners Mindfulness Meditation onsite and Online Courses in Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester.
- Diploma Mindfulness Meditation Courses online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Advanced Mindfulness Meditation Courses Online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Buddhism Online Courses in Letchworth.
- Children's Mindfulness Meditation Online Course in Letchworth.
- Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions in Letchworth.
- Dana Donations received to the centre.
- Blessings Gratitude Donations received to the Centre.
- General Donations received to the centre.
- Donations received to the travel expenses towards the car.
- Child Sponsorship Project.
- Reverend Akurala Samithasiri contributed to the centre all the personal donations received to him (these are in addition to the above course funds.)
- Standing Order Subscriptions received to the Centre.

- General Donations Received to the centre account.
- Disaster Emergency help Fund received for helping Sri Lanka.
- Kathina Donation Received individually.
- Centre Standing Orders and General Donations.

Total income (Donations): = £81,997.00

- HMRC Gift Aid: £20874.00

Total income (Donations & Gift Aid): = £102,871.00

Expenses Break Down for the year 2021-2022:

- House Mortgage Rent & Hiring Community Centre Halls to host meditation and other events.
- Centre improvements.
- Gas, Electricity & Water.
- Telephone.
- Food.
- Motor, Travel & Transport.
- Monks Expenses and other expenses.
- Council Tax.

Total Expenses: = £93,826.00

Conclusion:

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 2021-2022 Year of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre was a very progressing year. We are very grateful to all our members and friends by supporting us to achieve another successful year. **However we continued to face the most ever challenging year due to the pandemic and also inflation (rice of cost of living) with the beginning of the year 2021**. **It was even hard to survive. So we had to cut lots of cost and work hard to raise funds.** However our members were very concerns about the welfare of the monks and helped the centre to survive through the difficult time. Monks even worked tirelessly to help the needy by taking a huge risk.

We managed to make a big difference to the livelihood in our local community especially through mental health services and children programmes and also our international community, particularly Sri Lanka. We are very impressed with the voluntary support and goodwill of our devotees to up keep our services and events.

Our projects in Sri Lanka were also very demanding due the economic crisis and pandemic in Sri Lanka. Cost of living had gone sky high in Sri Lanka. We had to do extra help. We were happy to help children to get their studies and other necessities. Our education projects for the needy children in Sri Lanka had been a great need. However their lives in Sri Lanka were getting much harder and they were in now experiencing financial crisis and country bankruptcy. We might have to do little bit more towards them. We endeavour to develop our support to them little bit more in the next year.

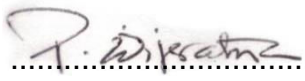
We are pleased to see a good and growing interest from our local community on our Mindfulness Courses, Meditation Sessions, Psychotherapy and Counselling session. We also determine to extend those services into our multicultural community in the forthcoming year. Those courses, voluntary services and teachings have changed the lives without any obligation to gender, race, religion, ethnicity or age.

On behalf of the trustees of Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre for Education, Meditation, Psychotherapy & Counselling (UK Registered Charity Number 1116187), we would like to thank all our supporters and well wishes for helping our charity fundraising events encouraging us to continue our charitable services for the benefit of the public. We look forward to see more new members joining to strengthen our community wellbeing projects and make our charity efforts a success.

Thank you.

.....

Reverend Akurala Samitahsiri
President



.....

Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne
Secretary

……

Mr Gary Bland
Treasurer

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA

BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st MARCH 2022

Charity Number 1116187

A. Dervish & Co. Ltd
Accountants
496-498 Bearwood Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4HB

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Reference and Administrative information

Charity Name	Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Registered Charity Number	1116187
Principal Address	69 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ
Board of Trustees	Rev Akurala Samithasiri Padmalatha Wijeratne Mrs R S Ratnaveli Dep Gary A L Gland John Williams Nicola Butler
Independent Examiner	A. Dervish and Co. Ltd Accountants 496-498 Bearwood Road Bearwood Birmingham B66 4HB
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC Leicester LE87 2BB

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Report to the trustees	Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre		
On accounts for the year ended	31st March 2022	**Charity no**	1116187
Set out on pages	3-5		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:	A. Dervish	**Date:**	10/05/2023
Name:	Abdullah Dervish		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body):	Institute of Financial Accountants		
Address:	496-498 Bearwood Road, Bearwood, Smethwick, B66 4HB		

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31st March 2022

	2022	2021
Income		
Donations	80,682	63,379
HMRC Gift Aid	20,875	0
	101,557	63,379
Expenditure		
Monks expenses	16,509	3,063
Rent and housing costs	35,980	31,700
Light and Heat	2,140	1,322
Rates and water	1,071	3,639
Salaries and wages	12,000	12,000
Repairs and maintenance	0	0
Telephone and mobile	947	919
Travel and motor	7,996	4,175
Printing postage and stationery	618	799
Bank loan interest and charges	0	0
Sundries	5,760	277
Accountancy	0	1,320
Depreciation	1,987	2,650
Blessings and Sponsorship	4,450	0
Events	930	120
	90,388	61,984
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	11,169	1,395
Total funds brought forward	10,916	9,521
Total funds carried forward	22,086	10,916

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022

		2022		2021
Fixed Assets				
Motor vehicle	33,500		33,500	
Accum. Depreciation	(25,550)		(22,900)	
Annual Depreciation	(1,987)	5,962	(2,650)	7,950
Meditation Hall		24,693		24,693
		30,655		32,643
Current Assets				
Cash at bank		19,389		5,144
Current Liabilities				
Loans	13,177		18,844	
Creditors and accruals	14,781	(27,958)	8,027	(26,871)
Net Assets		22,086		10,916
Funds				
Brought forward		10,916		9,521
Surplus (Loss) from I&E		11,169		1,395
		22,086		10,916

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the:

11th May 2023 ..... and are signed on their behalf by:

.....

Reverend Akurala Samithisiri

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost Convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, and the Charities Act 1993.

Income

Voluntary income is received by way of donations

Motor Vehicles

Motor vehicles are not held in the name of the charity, but are held in the name of Reverend Samithisiri. The vehicle is paid for by the charity on the understanding that it's use is for the charity and should Reverend Samithisiri leave the services of the charity that the vehicle will be returned to the charity. Due to the terms of the provision, the charity elects to show the vehicle as an asset of the charity even though the title is not in the charities name.

Rent and Housing Costs

The charity directly and indirectly pays for the housing and property expenses associated with the provision of Buddhist services to the public and for the accommodation of the monks. Some of these expenses are capital in nature but are not directly owned by the charity and therefore are not listed in the assets of the charity.

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYC

England & Wales - Charity number 1116187

Accounts

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA

BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31st MARCH 2021

Charity Number 1116187

A. Dervish & Co. Ltd
Accountants
496-498 Bearwood Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4HB

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Reference and Administrative information

Charity Name	Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Registered Charity Number	1116187
Principal Address	69 Pix Road Letchworth Garden City Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ
Board of Trustees	Rev Akurala Samithasiri Padmalatha Wijeratne Mrs R S Ratnaveli Dep Gary A L Gland John Williams Nicola Butler
Independent Examiner	A. Dervish and Co. Ltd Accountants 496-498 Bearwood Road Bearwood Birmingham B66 4HB
Bankers	Barclays Bank PLC Leicester LE87 2BB

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre.

Year ended 31st March 2021

I report on the unaudited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021 set out on the following pages.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT.

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre (continued)

Year ended 31st March 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A. Dervish & Co. Ltd
Accountants
496-498 Bearwood Road
Bearwood
Birmingham
B66 4HB
16/12/2022

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre
Statement of Financial Activities
For The Year Ended 31st March 2021

	2021	2020
Income		
Donations	63,379	92,753
HMRC Gift Aid	0	13,165
	63,379	105,918
Expenditure		
Monks expenses	3,063	24,347
Rent and housing costs	31,700	57,663
Light and Heat	1,322	2,672
Rates and water	3,639	1,013
Salaries and wages	12,000	0
Repairs and maintenance	0	26,534
Telephone and mobile	919	936
Travel and motor	4,175	12,944
Printing postage and stationery	799	1,291
Bank loan interest and charges	0	284
Sundries	277	3,765
Accountancy	1,320	1,900
Depreciation	2,650	3,533
Sri Lanka – Stupa Project	0	10,010
Events	120	2,779
	61,984	149,671
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	1,395	(43,753)
Total funds brought forward	9,521	53,274
Total funds carried forward	10,916	9,521

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

		2021		2020
Fixed Assets				
Motor vehicle	33,500		33,500	
Accum. Depreciation	(22,900)		(19,367)	
Annual Depreciation	(2,650)	7,950	(3,533)	10,600
Meditation Hall		24,693		24,693
		32,643		35,293
Current Assets				
Cash at bank		5,144		6,754
Current Liabilities				
Loans	18,844		23,567	
Creditors and accruals	8,027	(26,871)	8,958	(32,525)
Net Assets		10,916		9,521
Funds				
Brought forward		9,521		53,274
Surplus (Loss) from I&E		1,395		(43,753)
		10,916		9,521

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on the:

03rd March 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Reverend Akurala Samithisiri

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA BUDDHIST CULTURAL CENTRE

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31st March 2021

1. Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost Convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (SORP 2005) issued in March 2005, and the Charities Act 1993.

Income

Voluntary income is received by way of donations

Motor Vehicles
Motor vehicles are not held in the name of the charity, but are held in the name of Reverend Samithisiri. The vehicle is paid for by the charity on the understanding that it's use is for the charity and should Reverend Samithisiri leave the services of the charity that the vehicle will be returned to the charity. Due to the terms of the provision, the charity elects to show the vehicle as an asset of the charity even though the title is not in the charities name.

Rent and Housing Costs
The charity directly and indirectly pays for the housing and property expenses associated with the provision of Buddhist services to the public and for the accommodation of the monks. Some of these expenses are capital in nature but are not directly owned by the charity and therefore are not listed in the assets of the charity.

Charity Trustees Annual Report 2020

DHAMMA NIKETHANAYA INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CENTRE
FOR EDUCATION MEDITATION PSYCHOTHERAPY AND COUNSELLING

Letchworth
Dhamma Nikethanaya
Buddhist Cultural Centre

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire SG6 1PZ

Website: www.buddhistacademy.com
Email: buddhistacademy@gmail.com
Telephone: 01462 641 688
Mobile: 07983 466 105

Sunday 04th April 2021

Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre
for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling

Charity Commission Registration Number: 1116187

Charity Trustees Annual Report:

This meeting was held online.

On Sunday 04th April 2021

Present Trustees: Reverend Akurala Samithasiri,
Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne,
Mrs Rathnawalie Dep,
Mrs Nikki Butler,
Mr Gary Bland &
Mr John Williams

Other Members Present: Mr Frederick Day, Mr. Rasika Jayawardana, Mrs Vipuli Gunasena, Mr Rajitha Kuruppu, Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi, Mr Glenn Everad, Mr Ram Murthi Summan, Mr Paul Martin, Mr Udena Wanniarachchi, Mr Manohar Summan, Mr Des Raj & Mrs Pushpa Chauhan.

Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero; *Retired Principal of Vidyathunga Vidyayathana Piriven Matara Sri Lanka* and Most Venerable Gunnapana Sumanarama Thera; head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre attended as guest monks.

Meeting started with few minutes meditation and religious observations. Reverend Akurala Samithasiri welcomed everyone and chaired the charity annual meeting.

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep presented the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr Glenn Everard suggested the minutes as accurate and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri requested to elect the trustees and new office bearers for the **New Year 2020-2021**. Mrs Rathnawalie Dep suggested Reverend Akurala Samithasiri to re-elect as the trustee and the president. Mr Glenn Everard seconded it. Mr Paul Martin suggested to re-elect Mrs Rathnawalie Dep as the secretary and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne seconded it. Mr Glenn Everard suggested to re-elect Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne as the treasurer and the trustee and Mr Rasika Jayawardana seconded it. Mrs Vipuli Gunasena suggested Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary and the trustee. Mr Gary Bland seconded it. Mr Udena Wanniarachchi suggested Mr John Williams as the trustee and the vice president. Mr Rasika Jayawardana seconded it.

Reverend Akurala Samithasiri was elected as the president, Mr John Williams as the vice president, Mrs Rathnawalie Dep as the secretary, Mrs Nikki Butler as the assistant secretary,

Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne as the treasurer and Mr Gary Bland as assistant treasurer were elected as new office bearers for the year 2020-2021.

2020-2021 Annual Report: (01-04-2020 & 31-03-2021)

Welcome to the **17th Annual General Meeting** of **Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre for Education Meditation Psychotherapy & Counselling** registered charity.

We experienced the most challenging year with the Covid-19 Corona Virus Pandemic. However, we all were relieved and fortunate to get more relaxed rules at the end of the year. Amidst all challenges we accomplished a great deal to serve our multi-cultural community. Overall it has been a very successful year with regards to the services we delivered. This report will reflect the work carried out by our charity for the year ending **31st March 2021**.

As in the previous years we have been continuing our services and carrying out our objectives for the benefit of the community in UK and other countries (Only Sri Lanka in this year).

Emergency Appeal and Lock Down: From 04th April 2020

Our centre announced some guide lines to manage the social distancing and safety of the monks and the community. We followed all the government legislations and still continued our blessings online, privately and at distance. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne were remained in Sri Lanka at the beginning of the year due to the closure of the airport and country lock down. However we delivered all our programmes online by connecting Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne from Sri Lanka. Whole world became standstill and most of us lost our loved ones. It was a tragedy indescribable. We were very grateful to the government officials, NHS, health care workers, defence officials and financial organizations for managing efficiently and taking every precautions in this life threating situation to help the needy.

It was financially the hardest time as very little donations received and people were going through cost of living difficulties. We did not receive any public funds but our community stepped into keep us survived by making donations in response to our emergency appeals. In addition, we distributed food parcels to affected Sri Lankan community as well.
.

Sri Lankan New Year Festival Celebrated on 14th April 2020

There were no any functions in this year to celebrate the Sri Lankan New Year. All our members remained locked down at their homes and observed religious practices with their family members. We did an online blessings chanting on Sri Lankan New Year day **14th Apirl 2020**. A large number of members joined online for the blessings.

Centre Anniversary Day Celebration 19th April 2020

Due to the early stage of pandemic, we could not organize something special as everyone was concentrating day to day survival. However, to mark the Centre Anniversary Day of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Community Centre we held a special chanting, meditation programme, dhamma talk and pooja on Sunday **19th April 2020** and people joined online. We started the centre on 19th April 2004. 19th April of the year was regarded as the Centre Anniversary day. This year it marks the **17th Year of the Centre and our organization** and also the **15th year being a registered charity**. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted a Special Chanting of Blessings Programme and a session of meditation to celebrate the centre anniversary day. Venerable Akurala Samitha appreciated the hard work of all centre members and shared the blessings with all in gratitude.

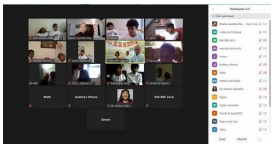
Online Vesak Buddha Day Celebration: Meditation, Buddha Pooja, Chanting and Festival of Vesak Lanterns Day on 07th May 2020

Vesak (May) Full Moon Day is the most important day to Buddhists across the globe as it celebrates the birth, enlightenment and the great passing away of our lord Buddha. On **07th of May 2020** all the members joined online for a day programme with observing higher precepts, homage, Meditation, Dhamma talk and chanting protection blessings. As everyone was staying at homes, we did not have to organize it on a weekend. A large number of devotees joined online. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the online programme from Sri Lanka with his father and family. Everyone shared their pictures of Vesak decorations and lanterns. It was very uplifting and really helping with blessings. Children and adults joined singing the devotional songs at the end of the online programme. Bracknell, Milton Keynes, Sri Lanka and people from all over the world joined into this programme.

Charity Work in Sri Lanka: Covid-19 Corona Virus Victims Appeal 04th April 2020:

Taking the advantage of the lock down in Sri Lanka, Venerable Akurala Samitha managed to complete few outstanding charity works. As people were struggling without any labour work, Venerable Akurala Samitha helped some temples and community centres to do some building works by supporting the builders. On **04th April 2020** Venerable Akurala Samitha made a special **appeal to help the victims of the Covid-19 Corona Virus**. By responding to that our members helped to distribute a large number of dry food parcels and helped the local people to get some labour work by doing some building work at community centres in Sri Lanka.

Online Poson Full Moon Poya Day Programme on 06th June 2020



Buddhists observe the full Moon Poya Day every month as a significant day for practice (*sabbath*). Even though every full moon poya day is important, some of them are highly significant due to historical reasons. **Poson Full Moon Poya Day** is the second such significant Full Moon Poya Day for particularly Sri Lankan Buddhists as on that day the Buddhism was introduced to **Sri Lanka in 236 BC** (Before Christ) and another seven countries from India.

We had to host this programme online this year due to the peak of pandemic. A large number of devotees from Letchworth, Bracknell, Milton Keynes, Sri Lanka and all over the world joined to observe ata (eight) sil (precepts), meditation, Buddha pooja, Bodhi pooja and dhamma discussions. Free dry food parcels were distributed to poor families in Sri Lanka with the donations received from the community in UK.

Meditation Sessions in Sri Lanka: 08-07-2020

Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted few mental health programmes and meditation sessions to help for the Sri Lankan community. Final session was held on **08th July 2020** at **Kovilavatta Bodhirukkaramaya Balapitiya Sri Lanka**. All in the local communities greatly appreciated the teachings and the practice. They all requested to continue those sessions either on online. But it was hard for the local community to deal with the technology.

Returning Back to UK from Sri Lanka: 14-07-2020

Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne visited Sri Lanka on **27th February 2020** to do the regular charity works and also to attend Venerable Akurala Samitha's mother's death anniversary remembrance dana ceremony. Due to the unprecedented rise of deadly virus, they were locked down in Sri Lanka. Yet they did conduct all the services on online by spending very late nights due to the time differences. After being there for **over five months**, they returned back to UK on **14th July 2020** as airlines resumed back their cargo services with limited passengers. **Most Venerable Hunupola Shanthadeva Thero** and **Venerable Singapore Kittisara Thero** came to airport to do the blessings. **Mr Nihal Wijethunga** also helped in Sri Lanka. **Mr Glenn Everard** helped to provide the transport from London Heathrow Airport to Letchworth. Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne self-isolated for 10 days.

New Visiting Monk's arrival: Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri of Singapore Malaysia: 16th July 2020.

Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri of Singapore Malaysia (D.Th (Oxford), PhD (VN), D.B.S, B.A (Hons), D. Hom (Med)(UK), D.H.M, N.M.D (USA) FBIH (UK) Medical Consultant, CEO, Global Buddhist Realist Movement) is the Chief Sangha Nayaka of UK and Europe, visited Venerable Akurala Samitha to stay few months at the centre on **16th July 2020**. Rev Dr. Sumana Siri, of Sri Lankan heritage, was born and brought up in Malaysia and Singapore. He is an exceptional student both at school and university. He has mastered 16 languages excelling in many fields of expertise. Of international fame and renown, he has been the leading light in modern Buddhist Missions. He is an academic and well experienced monk. He contributed to all our educational, spiritual and wellbeing services.

New Visiting Monk's Arrival: Dr Chandana Bhikkhu from United States of America on 04th September 2020.

Venerable Dr Chandana Bhikkhu is a Ph.D scholar in Buddhist Ministry and also an American citizen who practices as a professional psychotherapist and counsellor in United States of America. He became a student of **Most Venerable late Dr Havanpola Ratanasara Maha Nayaka Thero** at the College of Buddhist Studies, Los Angeles CA in 1990. He has been practicing meditation for nearly 30 years and hosting meditation retreats and giving dhamma talks in many parts of the world including USA, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India. Lately he was staying at Verona Buddhist Vihara in Italy and wanted to stay few weeks at our centre and offer some meditation programmes. He visited on **04th September 2020**. But he could not stay longer due to some other unplanned circumstances and had to return back to Italy on 02nd October 2020.

Warm Welcome Back Home from Lister Hospital: 22-07-2020

Father Michael Sijuwade visited the centre on **22nd July 2020** with the blessings of all the staff of Lister Hospital Chaplains and interfaith groups to **welcome Venerable Akurala Samitha back in UK**. While he was quarantining, he still attended the online meeting at the Lister Hospital Chaplains Team. Everyone appreciated Venerable Akurala Samitha's contributions at the most difficult time of the history.

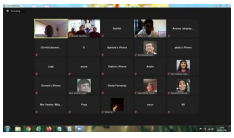
Online Temple Studio for delivering Dhamma Talks, Blessings Chanting, Meditation Programmes and All Other Temple work:

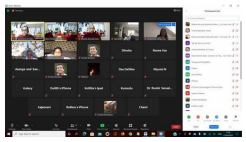
Due to the pandemic deadly virus, we all have to maintain safety of the community. We set up Online Temple to do our regular services. Monks at the centre dedicated for those programmes and worked tirelessly to meet all the requirements. It was very challenging but it was really supportive to eliminate the fears and worries at the time of pandemic.

Every Saturday Evening From 6PM till 8PM Dhamma Dana, Bodhi Pooja, Meditation & Protection Blessings Chanting Programme:

A series of online and onsite programmes were held on every Saturday evening from 6PM till 8PM. The programme was included a **Dhamma Talk in Sinhala, Dhamma Talk in English, Bodhi Pooja Homage, Meditation and Protection Blessings Chanting**. Venerable Monks offered the Dhamma Talks in Sinhala and English on very interesting and highly educational topics. Generous devotees and families sponsored the dhamma dana (sharing the gift of lord Buddha's teachings).

Daham Sisila Programmes on Every Sunday From 5PM till 6.30PM:





Milton Keynes Vihara Community organized a series of regular Dhamma Programme on Every Sunday especially to help the people (young and adults) who were isolated due to the lock down. Saturday programmes were given the priority for pooja, blessings, children and meditation. Hence Sunday this programme was given priority for the young and adult. It was very much for adults as we had a topic to make dhamma reflections by the monks and the community was given the opportunity to engage actively with the discussion. A large number of participants were attended.

Annual Three Months Rains Retreat Opening Ceremony and Esala Full Moon Poya Day Programme 04-07-2020

Due to the government legal restrictions on community gathering, this year annual vassana three months retreat season was held online on **Esala (July) Full Moon Poya Saturday 04th July 2020**. Vassana

Season is known as **Annual Rains Meditation Retreat** that Theravada Monks should practice once a year for three months on Esala Full Moon Poya Day. Venerable Monks of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre observed the beginning of **annual rains three months retreat** on **Saturday 04th July 2020** respecting the advice of the Lord Buddha and in compliance with the 2600 years old tradition. Whole day programme was held online with chanting, meditation, dhamma talk and observing eight precepts. A large number of devotees joined online. This year three months Rains Retreat (Vassana) Season was between 0**4th July 2020** and **02nd November 2020**. This year three months retreat and kathina ceremony was not sponsored by **one principle** family. Due to the pandemic restrictions we thought of doing the retreat with the full participation of all the members of the community. This is the **17th consecutive year Rainy Retreat** of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** and **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero** joined with **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** to stay the three months rains retreat in this year 2020.

Milton Keynes Vassana (Rains Retreat) Sunday 05th July 2020:

Venerable Akurala Samitha organized the facilities for the community in Milton Keynes to host the annual three months rains retreat in Milton Keynes. This year ceremony was sponsored by the whole community. Opening ceremony was held online on **Sunday 05th July 2020**. Centre remained closed for public and most of the activities were done by online.

Special Pooja and Blessings during the Vassana (Rains Retreat) Three Months Season: From 04th July 2020 till 02nd November 2020:

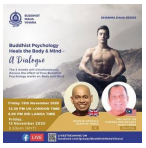
Three months rains retreat is a significant time for the community to do more poojas, meditation programmes, dhamma talks and protection blessings chanting. Regularly on every Saturday we hosted a special programme for 12 weeks until the end of the rains retreat. It was well attended and generated lots of blessings. Among them **a special atavisi Buddha Pooja was held on 22nd August 2020 with Dhammachakka pavattana Sutta chanting. A Special Bodhi Pooja** was held **on 08th September 2020**. On **12th September 2020, Healing Chanting of Bojjanga Sutta** was held online.

Special Blessings Pooja for Mrs Rathnawalie Dep 19th September 2020

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep was a founder member and outstanding supporter of the centre. We were always ever so grateful and indebted to her dedication and thoughtfulness. She was experiencing health issues. Venerable Akurala Samitha visited few times at her residence and did some blessings to support morally and spiritually during the difficult times. We hosted a special blessing at her

house **on 19th September 2020**. Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne also joined the blessings in gratitude to Mrs Rathnawalie Dep's contribution towards the temple.

Malaysia Buddhist Maha Vihara Online Programmes on 25th September & 13th November 2020: Malaysia Buddhist Maha Vihara hosted few Online Dhamma Sessions with Venerable Akurala Samitha on **Buddhism, Meditation and Psychotherapy**: These were available on Youtube for the benefit of wider community. On **25th September 2020** Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk on Buddhist Psychotherapy and an exposition on (uddacca kukkuca) hindrance to meditation: restlessness and worry.

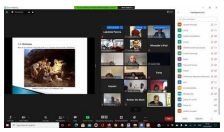


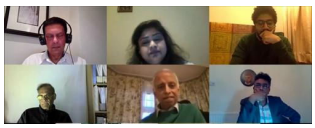
On 13th November 2020 Venerable Akurala Samitha participated a dialogue with Most **Reverend Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri Nayaka Maha Thero** on "**Buddhist Psychology Heals the Body and Mind**" organized by **Malaysia Buddhist Maha Vihara**.

APSL (The Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK) Online Discussions Series: 27th September 2020 and 13th March 2021:

The Association of Professional Sri Lankans in the UK (APSL) in collaboration with Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre hosted few discussion series. First on which was held on **Sunday 27th September 2020**. The title was "**Eastern and Western Values**". **Venerable Akurala Samitha** did a presentation and a talk. **Mr Thushara Madurasinghe** organized the event. **Mr Rohan De Alwis** (Past President, APSL), and **Dr Dulini Fernando** (Executive Committee Member, APSL) also joined the panel discussion.

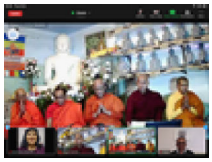
Second of the series was held on **13th March 2021**. The topic on this; **Living in the**





UK / Sri Lankan Cultural Values Discussions Series was "**Sri Lankan religious festivals and their significances**". **Mr Thushara Madurasinghe** made the welcome. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** did a talk on **Sri Lankan Cultural Values and religious festivals and how it can relate to young children who are born and brought up outside Sri Lanka**. Panel discussion was moderated by **Mr Rohan De Alwis** (Solicitor and past president of APSL) and **Dr Dulini Fernando**. Among the panel members **Mr Tariq Salih** made the presentation to explain **the Islamic religious festivals in Sri Lanka**. **Professor Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran** did a talk on **Hindu religious festivals in Sri Lanka**. **Mrs Gayani Senaratne** did a presentation explaining the **Buddhist religious festivals in Sri Lanka**. **Mr Mervyn Silva** made a presentation on **Christian religious festivals in Sri Lanka**. A large number of members from many different parts of the UK and abroad attended the online session.

Special Monastic Chanting Held During the Vassana Season: 08th October 2020



It was a great blessing for our community to have three monks staying during the vassana season. Venerable Monks hosted **a very special Monastic Ceremony** called **Pathimokka Chanting**. Two other monks also invited. **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Nayaka Thero**, Head of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara and **Most Venerabe Sooriyawewe Kusala Thero**, deputy head of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara attended with the resident monks **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri of Singapore**, **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero**, Matara Sri Lanka and **Venerable Akurala Samitha**. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** and **Mr Paul Martin** supported the event as many people cannot be gathered. Over 80 people of the community were joined online.

Mother's Day Pooja: 14th March 2021: A special pooja and blessings chanting was held on **Mother's Day 14th March 2021** at the centre. Due the pandemic restrictions and the nature of the deadly virus whole our community was in dreadful distress due to the loss of parents and loved one. This special chanting and tribute pooja brought healing to many hearts.

<u>The Annual Kathina Ceremony: 17th Consecutive Year (Sangha Day Community Event) Celebration held on Saturday 17th October 2020:</u>

The Annual Kathina Ceremony is the biggest community event at the centre. It was held on **Saturday 17th October 2020** at **Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre**. Outside ceremony venues were not available due to pandemic. Therefore we hosted the ceremony at the centre with the participation of few members of the community and all others joined online. However, we were able to experience the best spirit of the typical ceremony and everyone enjoyed the ceremony without noticing much difference as venerable monks used the best technology to stream it live.

This was the **17th consecutive Kathina Ceremony** or community day (Sangha Day) Celebration held by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Community. This year there were no any main sponsors. Final Kathina Ceremony was sponsored by all the community. **Miss Padma Wijeratne**, **Mr Nishendra Dissanayaka**, **Mrs Nisansala Dharmaratne**, **Miss Chamari Jayasinghe** and **Mrs Nikki Butler** sponsored special gifts to Venerable Monks. **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe**, **Mr Sujeewa** and **Mrs Sujeewa Lokwaduge** family joined with decorations and offering kapparukka (wish-fulfilling tree

offerings). **Mrs Rathnawalie Dep** attended online from home as she was not feeling well. **Mr Paul Martin** helped with the arrangements. **Mr Alpesh Pratap Chaudasama** and **Mrs Neelam Singh** helped with the photography and videography. In this occasion over **120 devotees** representing cosmopolitan member families of the centre attended online. Representing the community of monks in the United Kingdom, **six Venerable Monks** too attended to this. Due to pandemic restrictions and seriousness of the virus, we were not able to invite more monks.

The venerable monks who were attended are; **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** (Chief Prelate of UK, Europe, Singapore and Malaysia and Head of Global Realists Monastery), **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Maha Thero** (retired principal of Vidyathunga Vidyayatana, Dickwella, Matara), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Temple) and **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre) .

Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero administered the five precepts. **Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri Nayaka Maha Thero** delivered the English Dhamma talk to mark the beginning of the ceremony and explain the significances of the day by dedicating the Kathina Dana and commended the importance of mental health services rendered by Venerable Akurala Samitha and Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre. **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** conducted the Buddha Pooja. **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero** delivered a Dhamma Talk in Sinhala explaining the significances of the traditional spiritual ceremony to the modern world, and highlighted the credentials of Venerable Akurala Samitha as a rare skilful monk from whom the community can be benefited immensely. **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero** conducted Kathina Robe offering and the punnanumodana (sharing of merits). All the monks chanted very special protection chanting to bring blessings to all the community.

Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted **A Special Atavisi Buddha** to invoke the merits and blessings to parents of all members of the community. Late parents of the members of the community were dearly remembered by sharing the merits.

Hamper Gift Parcels to venerable Monks were sponsored by **Mr Nishendra** & **Mrs Nisansala Dharmaratne.**

Gift Donations Offering to Venerable Monks were supported by all the members of the community with the main support of **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne, Miss Chamari Jayasinghe** and **Mrs Rathnawalie Dep**.

Children of our Dhamma School actively participated online. Kathina Procession was held in compounds of the temple. Special thanks to teachers and parents including **Mr Rasika, Mrs Vipuli, Miss Padma** and **Mrs Vina**. The Son of Mr and Mrs Dissanayaka, Mr Nisaja Dissanayaka sang a beautiful devotional song to the audience.

Venerable Akurala Samitha thanked everyone supported to make this year Kathina ceremony a great success. The Ceremony arrangements and temple decorations were not possible without the earnest support of **Mr Hasindu Lokuwaduge and family, and Mr Paul Martin**. Venerable Samitha shared heartfelt gratitude and blessings with them all.

Venerable Akurala Samitha shared the blessings with those who offered **Atapirikara**, **Robes**, Monks' gift items and other donations. Their support greatly counted for the success of the ceremony.

Atapirikara (Eight Requisites) and Monks' Pirikara (Gift Dana) Pooja Offering were sponsored by Mrs Rathnawalie Dep, Mr Sampath & Mrs Dilini Samaraweera, Mrs K F Hill, Miss Nilanka Samarathunga, Mrs Kisha Chaudari Alahakoon, Mr Nuwan Kadurugamuwa, Mr Priyantha & Mrs Kumuduni Uluvita, Mrs Chopana Kadurugamuwa, Mr Asanga & Mrs Sangeetha Agalakotuwa, Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe, Mrs Rukmal Wijesekara, Mrs Kanti Silva, Miss Padma Wijeratne, Mrs Suba & Dr Ramanayake, Mrs Caroline Whitelock, Mr Adhithya Uluvita, Mrs Cheryl Green, Mr Dayal & Mrs Baksho Summan, Mrs Niranjala Perera, Mr Suneth & Miss Sara Gamage, Mrs Chandrika Worrell, Mr Aloka & Mrs Veena Hettiarachchi, Mr Sujeewa & Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge, Mr Rajitha & Mrs Lakshi Weerakkodi, Mrs Premalatha Weerakkodi, Mr Des & Mrs Pushpa Raj, Mrs Jeevani Atakalan Ko, Mrs Gayani & Mr Aruna Wijekoon, Mr Nishendra & Mrs Nisansala Dharmaratne, Mr Santokh, Mrs Usha, Mr Gavrav Mr Vishal Saroye, Mr Vijay & Mrs Pavan Summan.

Robes Offerings to Venerable Monks were made by Mr Andrew Dep, Mr Virul Perera, Mrs Rathnawalie Dep, Mr Sadev & Family, Mrs Helena Khushlani Dep, Mrs Harshani Weerasinghe, Mr Khushil Dep, Mrs Nadeeka Athuraliya, Mr Kolitha, Mrs Wayomi & Miss Jinesha Nawarathne, Mr Rasika & Mrs Wipuli Jayawardana, Mr Murali & Mrs Priya Chandrasena, Mr Ram Murthi Summan, Mr Dilshan & Mrs Kanchana Wijesekara, Mrs Ruwanthi & Mr Chandrin Katuwawala, Mr Udena & Mrs Nilanthi Wanni Arachchi, Mrs Girly Geetha Weerasinghe, Mrs Delphi Ellis, Mr Ranil Adhikari & Mrs Chaturika Nanayakkara, Mrs Lalanthika & Mrs Punya Warnakulasooriya, Mr Amalka & Mrs Nilanthi Hewa Naimanage, Dr Kamal & Mrs Samanmali Witharana, Mr Santokh, Mrs Usha, Mr Gavrav Mr Vishal Saroye, and Mr Chaminda & Mrs Suresha Ranaweera.

Annual Kathina Ceremonies at Other Temples in UK:

Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Saturday 17th October 2020** and Venerable Akurala Samitha attended to it.

Thames Buddhist Vihara Croydon hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 18th October 2020** and Venerable Akurala Samitha attended to it.

London Hendon Mindfulness (Vipassana) Meditation Centre celebrated their Annual Kathina Ceremony on **24th October 2020**. Venerable Akurala Samitha and other monks joined online representing our centre.

Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara hosted the Annual Kathina Ceremony on **Sunday 25th October 202**0 and Venerable Akurala Samitha attended to it.

Milton Keynes Vihara Annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 01st November 2020:

Under the patronage of **Venerable Akurala Samitha, Milton Keynes Vihara Community** celebrated their **annual Kathina Ceremony on Sunday 01st November 2020**. This was their **02nd consecutive ceremony**. Due to the legal restrictions of Covid-19 pandemic, it was hosted online with the participation of few members from the community. It was held in highest spirit and dedicated all the blessings as a healing to the whole universe.

Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Thero (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** (Chief Prelate of UK, Europe, Singapore and Malaysia and Head of Global Realists Monastery), **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Maha Thero** (retired principal of Vidyathunga Vidyayatana, Dickwella, Matara), **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Maha Thero** (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** (Deputy Head Monk of Letchworth Temple) and **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** (Head Monk of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre) were attended the ceremony.

On behalf of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre, **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** and **Mr Glenn Everard** attended the ceremony and helped to make it a great success. A large number of devotees joined online from their homes.

Hospital Visit: Blessings to Mrs Rathnawalie Dep on 22nd October 2022:

Venerable Monks regularly visit the hospital to bless the patients and provide the spiritual and pastoral care. Venerable Akurala Samitha visited Lister Hospital to do a special blessing for Mrs Rathnawalie Dep as she was having unexpected health issues. She was the one who initiated our services to the Lister Hospital.

Celebrating Members' Special Moments:

Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Thero's Birthday 20th November 2020:

Community of the centre hosted a special blessings ceremony to celebrate the birthday of **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero**. He was the retired principle of Vidyathunga Vidyayathanaya, Budu Raja Maha Vehera, Dickwella, Vevurukannala, Matara. He stayed as the resident monk helping the community during the most difficult times. He supported weekly Dhamma Talks, Pooja, Chanting and other spiritual needs. We all at the centre were very grateful for his contribution.

Mrs Rathnawalie Dep Birthday Celebration on 30th December 2020: Members of the

centre organized a special blessing ceremony and pooja with the participation of Mrs Rathnawalie Dep's family to bless Mrs Rathnawalie on her birthday. Due to the pandemic restrictions they were house bound and were experiencing health challenges. Event was organized by Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne.

Most Reverend Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero's Birthday 01st January 2021: Centre community celebrated the birthday of **Most Venerable Dato' Sir Dr Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** on **01st January 2021**. Being a resident monk, he became a very resourceful monk, tirelessly contributing to the dhamma programmes, giving talks, attending the pooja and chanting. We all at the centre, were very grateful for all his contributions. Members of the centre organized a special blessings ceremony to wish him all the good health and fulfilment of his future ambitions.

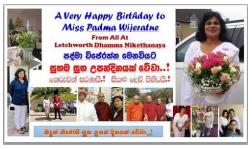
Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero's Birthday on 24th January 2021: **Most Venerable Gunnepana Sumanarama Thero** is the head monk of London Edmonton Samadhi Meditation Centre. He helps our spiritual and social activities a lot. Venerable Monks at the centre and the community are very grateful of his contributions.

We remembered him on his birthday **24th January 2021** by doing a special pooja and invoke the blessings to him.

Mr Glenn Everard celebrated his 50th Birthday on 25th January 2021: Mr

Glenn Everard was a long standing dedicated member of the centre. He celebrated his very **special 50th birthday** in the centre. Centre community organized a special pooja to invoke blessings to him on his 50th birthday on **25th January 2021**.

Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne celebrated her Birthday on 25th January 2021:



Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne has been a long standing member and also holds responsible positions like trustee and treasurer at the centre. She contributed her time, effort and financial support for the temple extensively. Everyone at the centre is extremely grateful for her dedication to upkeep the centre. Resident Monks and the community organized **a special blessings pooja chanting on 25th January 2021** to invoke blessings to **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne**. A large number of members of the centre joined online to the pooja.

Late Mrs Hema Weerasinghe remembered on 03rd February 2021: Family

and friends joined the centre to remember late **Mrs Hema Weerasinghe** on the **02nd year death anniversary** remembrance ceremony on **03rd February 2021**.

Mrs Niranjala Perera celebrated her 78th Birthday with special dhamma dana Saturday Evening programme on **27th February 2021**.

Mr Brixcious Anthony Hettiarachchi celebrated his 50th Birthday on 12th March 2021. He is one of the main and dedicated supporter of the centre. A special pooja was held with the friends and family on 12th March 2021 at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre.

Venerable Akurala Samitha's Birthday 25th March 2021: Centre community took

the privilege to pay tribute to the outstanding work of **Venerable Akurala Samitha on his 49th birthday** by organizing **a special dana** (food offering to monks) **ceremony** and **chanting blessings pooja** on **25th March 2021**. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** organized the event. **Mr Godfry**, **Mrs Sunethra De Silva**, **Mrs Nikki Butler**, **Mrs Emma Davilar**, **Mrs Nilanka Hettiarachchi**, **Mrs Nadika Athuraliya**, **Miss Chamari Jayasinghe** and **Mrs Jinanjali Rajakaruna** helped the dana (food offerings to monks) and the ceremony. **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Nayaka Thero** (Head of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore**

Malaysia, **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero** and **Most Venerable Sooriyawewa Kusala Thero** joined the special blessings.

Interfaith Activities by the Centre:

Our centre has been actively participating local and national interfaith groups and make necessary contributions to be part of the interfaith relations. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** regularly attend **East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust Lister Hospital**, **QE II Hospital in Welwyn Garden City**, and **Mount Vernon Cancer Hospital in London Northwood** as a part of chaplain team. Venerable Akurala Samitha attends monthly meetings and hosts a weekly meditation sessions in addition to visiting the patients for blessings. **Brother John O'Neill**, team lead of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Chaplain of East and North Herts NHS Trust, appreciated the dedicated the work done by Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne and Venerable Akurala Samitha at Lister Hospital on **26th March 2021**.

Home Visit By the Centre:

Home visits are a very active part of the centre. Venerable Monks do the regular home visits for spiritual and cultural needs. It had been over a year, we had not been able to do so due to the pandemic. Everything was happening virtually and devotees missed the actual blessings environments a lot. However our members were seriously missing that spiritual support. Therefore we facilitated that slowly.

First home visit took place at **Mr Des Raj and Mrs Pushpa Chauhan** house on **27th July 2020**. **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri Chief Prelate of Singapore and Malaysia** also joined the house blessings.

Monks Visited Shakespeare's Birthplace on 23rd August 2020: Venerable Monks visited

Shakespeare's village and met the members of **Mr & Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge** family at their residence on **23rd August 2020**.

House Blessing Dana Organized by **Miss Padma Wijeratne** on **28th August 2020**: Miss

Padma Wijeratne hosted a dana (food offerings) and blessings ceremony at her residence to share the merits blessings for the parents and those who help the centre activities.

On 29th August 2020 Mr Chandrin & Mrs Ruwanthi Katuwawala hosted a special house

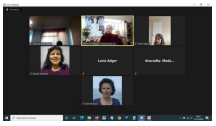
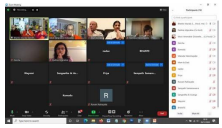
blessings ceremony in memory of departed relatives and friends.

13th October 2020: Our Resident Monks; **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sir Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero**, **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero** and **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha** visited **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe** house on her birthday On **Tuesday 13th October 2020** to do a special blessing. Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne also joined. **Mrs Yasa Amarasinghe** is a very dedicated member of the centre and even supported Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero by providing financial references to obtain necessary visa. We are very grateful for her contributions.

Blessings the new Business: Rothwell House Hotel, Kettering on 14th December 2020: Venerable Akurala Samitha visited few business places to do blessings as all were struggle with the pandemic situation. **Mr Iranga Withana** and **Mrs Nawini Perera** organized a blessing ceremony at the new business premises at **Rothwell House Hotel, Kettering** on **14th December 2020**.

Blessings at Mrs Kisha Alahakoon Chaudari on 18th December 2020: Venerable resident monks visited the residence of **Mrs Kisha Alahakoon Chaudari** with **Mrs Padma Wijeratne** on **18th December 2020** to do a special blessing as Mrs Kisha Alahakoon Chaudari was supporting few important projects in Sri Lanka and regularly support the welfare of the resident monks. As she does not go out usually and in particular due the covid pandemic, monks and the centre arranged the visit to do the blessings.

Year End Blessings: Christmas Blessings programme on 25th and 26th December 2020: We hosted an online blessings and meditation programme on Christmas day morning for people to share the spiritual blessings at the difficult times. A good number of people joined the online session. A special Bodhi Pooja Blessings programme was held on Boxing Day **26th December 2020**.

<u>2021 Happy New Year Blessings: A Special Atavisi Buddha Pooja to welcome the New Year was held on 1st January 2021</u>

The Community of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya organised online Atavisi Buddha Pooja Special Blessings ceremony on **Friday 01st January 2021** to share the blessings with all on the dawn of the **New Year 2021**. Usually lots of devotees gather the temple on New Year Day to get the blessings. But due to the new Covid-19 pandemic restrictions

and tier rules, everyone had to join online. However temple was allowed to keep open for individual prayers by appointment basis.

The morning blessings were sponsored by **Miss Chamari Jayasinghe**, **Miss Nadika Athuraliya** and **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne**. gathered at the centre to **start the New Year 2020 with Blessings**. A large number of devotees joined the **evening Atavisi Buddha Pooja**. This programme was sponsored mainly by devotees from Letchworth, Milton Keynes and Bracknell communities. Atavisi Buddha Pooja was sponsored by following members of the community. 1. Dr Vijitha Rathnayaka, Dr Ruvini Rathnayaka, Daughter Dr Aruni Rathnayaka & Family (Wising all a Very Happy New Year, 5th Year Remembrance & Transference of merits to Mrs Nalini Dharmasena, loving mother of Dr Ruvini Rathnayaka, To Transfer Merits to Late father of Dr Ruvini Rathnayaka, Professor Dr B. D. Dharmasena, To Transfer merits to loving parents of Dr Vijita Rathnayake Mr & Mrs M. B. Rathnayake and to share the merits with all the departed relatives of participants.) 2. Mrs Suba & Dr Ramanaya Family (wishing all in the family good health & protection.) 3. Dr Ruvini Senasinghe Family (Transfer of merits to loving mother & wishing all in the family good health) 4. Mrs Uthpala & Professor Arosha Bandara & family (wish all the family good health, prosperity & protection) 5. Mrs Shreeni & Dr Ajith De Silva & Family (Wishing all in the family good health and protection) 6. Mr Murali & Mrs Priya Chandrasena & Family (To Transfer merits to loving father Mr Kandiah Shanmuganathan and wish all the family good health prosperity & protection) 7. Mr Sujeewa & Mrs Sujeewa Lokuwaduge & Family (wishing all in the family good health and protection) 8. Mr Nalika Alawatta & Family (wishing all in the family good health and protection) 9. Mr Rasika & Mr Vipuli Jayawardana & Family (Wishing all in the family good health) 10. Mrs Veena & Mr Aloka Hettiarachchi & Family (wishing all in the family good health and protection) 11. Mrs Nilanthi & Mr Udena Wanninayake & Family (Wishing all in the family good health) 12. Mr Mahendra Wijesinghe Family (Wishing all in the family good health and protection) 13. Mrs Nisansala & Mr Nishendra Dissanayake Family (Wishing parents and all in the family good health) 14. Mrs Malindi & Mr Indika Daluwathumulla & Family (wishing Methul, Meheli & all in the family good health and protection) 15. Mr Chandima Fernando Family (Wishing all in the family good health) 16. Master Virul, Mrs Gayani & Mr Susantha Nonis Family (wishing all in the family good health and protection) 17. Mr Thusantha Lakmal Mrs Nilmini & Family 18. Mr Ajith & Mrs Samanthi De Silva 19. Mr Saliya & Mrs Dinusha De Silva 20. Dr Mahesh Dias & Dr Nimalka Dia & family 21. Mr Asanka & Mrs Jayani Perera 22. Mr Kasup & Mrs Ashvini Gadiewasam 23. Mrs Pincy Nugara & Family 24. Mrs Pushpa & Mr Peter Kalubowila & Family 25. Mr Upul & Mrs Thanuja Perera 26. Mrs Anagi De Silva and daughers Dinu & Anuradha 27. Mrs Manjula & Maithri Gunasekara 28. Miss Padma Wijeratne & family 29. Mrs Kisha Chaudari Alahakoon 30. Mr Priyantha & Mrs Kumuduni, Son Adhithya Uluvita 31. Mrs Rathnawalie Dep 32. Mrs Dilini, Mr Sampath & Daughter Sadili Samraweera 33. Mrs Prishani Rathnayake 34. Mrs Kumudu Gunasekara & Danuka Putha 35. Mrs Ruwanthi Katuwawala 36. Mr Chitra & Mrs Anoma Senaratne.

It was a honour and blessings to have three resident monks at the centre. **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero** of Singapore Malaysia and **Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero** joined with **Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero** for the New Year Day Blessings on **Friday 01st January 2021**.

Special Pooja and Blessings Chanting for Covid-19 Pandemic Relief on 09th January 2021:

Members of the centre joined together to host **a special Bodhi Pooja and Bojjanga paritta chanting of protection blessings** on **09th January 2021** to share the healings to overcome the deadly virus problems. A large number of members joined the programme online as there was another wave of the pandemic virus making the lives in threat.

Covid Vaccine: Venerable Akurala Samitha took the Covid Vaccine on **14th January 2021** and encouraged the community to take the vaccine to keep the community safe. Followed by that other two monks also received the vaccination.

Visiting ICU Covid Patients and Doing Blessings while resting in peace on 20th January 2021: Venerable Akurala Samitha visited the hospitals to bless the covid patients at a very distraught time of their life. Some of those patients were in the ICU and passed away with covid. All the community admired the selfless contributions of Venerable Akurala Samitha.

Beauty of Weather Heals the Pains of the difficult times: Snow in Letchworth 24th January 2021:

A heavy fall of snow in January brought healing to the withering minds of the people. All the members of the community deeply appreciated the dedication and commitments of the centre to help the community at such a difficult time in the history. This reflected the vibrant programmes organised to help the community.

Donating Baby Hats to Lister Hospital Children's Ward on 28th January 2021:

Our members of the community engaged in many worthwhile activities during the lockdown situations. Most of our senior members engaged in knitting. A parcel of hats made for children were donated to **Lister Hospital Children's ward** on **28th January 2021** by **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne**.

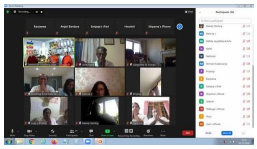
Venerable Akurala Samitha's Mother's 05th Year Remembrance Ceremony: 02nd March 2021:

Venerable Akurala Samitha and few members of the community usually travel to Sri Lanka for this ceremony annually. Due to the pandemic and financial difficulties, Venerable Akurala Samitha decided to stay in UK and do the ceremony in UK and Sri Lanka. **In memory of Loving Mother of Venerable Akurala Samitha**, **a wheel chair** was donated to **Mr Fedderick Day** and offered dana (food) to monks at the centres in **Letchworth** and **Milton Keynes** on **02nd March 2021**. Monks did a chanting and transferred the merits.

Food Offering in Sri Lanka: on 02nd March 2021: Venerable Akurala Samitha also

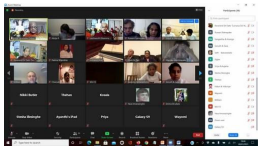
organized a special programme in parallel in his home town **Akurala** in **Sri Lanka** in **loving memory of the beloved mother** on **02nd March 2021**. Cooked food parcels were distributed for **500 people** and offered dana (food) for over **30 monks** at their local Buddhist centres in **Akurala** and **Kalutara** in **Sri Lanka**.

Full Moon Day and Monthly Retreat Sessions: 07th November 2020



Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya hosted a day programme to mark the **III (November) Full Moon Poya Day** on **Saturday 07th November 2020**. **Mrs Sangeetha and Mr Asanga Agalakotuwa** sponsored the day programme in memory of their **late mother Mrs Suranjini Seneviratne** on her **1st Death Anniversary**. A large number of members attended online and onsite with meditation, pooja, homage blessings and dhamma talks.

Duruth (January) Full Moon Poya Day: 30th January 2021: Duruthu Poya Full

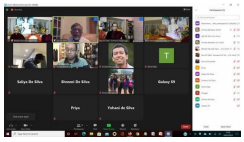


Moon Day is the first full moon poya day of the new year. Centre organized a special dhamma discussion, meditation session and a chanting of protection blessings Bodhi pooja on **Saturday 30th January 2021** to mark the Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day. A large number of devotees joined online to the programme.

Saturday Evening Weekly Special Pooja and Dhamma Dana Online Programmes at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya:

Our centre continued regular programmes on Saturday. Devotees sponsored most of the days.

Sunday Evening Daham Sisila Programmes: Every Sunday evening, venerable monks attended a Dhamma Discussion programme organized by Milton Keynes Buddhist Centre community. Monks delivered talks on selected subjects and the general public joined the discussion. All age groups attended and they all found it very useful programme for knowledge and blessings.



School Children Visit The Buddhist Centre for 2020/2021:

No school visits have been taking place due to the pandemic restriction in this year.

Sri Lankan Independent Day 06th February 2021:

Sri Lankan National Day is on 04th February. Centre community celebrated the **Sri Lankan Independence Day** on **06th February 2021** and commemorates the **73rd Anniversary** for being an independent republic. In 1948 Sri Lanka received its sovereignty from Great Britain. Our centre organized a special pooja blessings online to bring all Sri Lankan together and celebrated their cultural and patriotic values. Dhamma school children made wonderful presentations to reflect the rich knowledge about the subject. It was a highly educational programme.

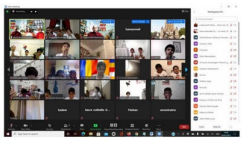
February (Navam) Full Moon Day Programme with Meditation Retreat and Chanting on 08th February 2020:

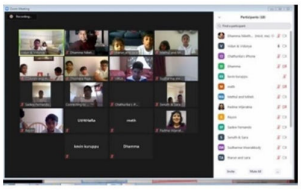
Centre community hosted a special Dana (food) offering and Blessings Chanting programme on **08th February 2020** to mark the **Navam (February) Full Moon Day in Letchworth**. The day programme was attended by many members and shared the blessings by attending to offer dana (food) to venerable monks and sharing food with all. A special talks were delivered by Venerable monks explaining the significances of the Navam (February) Full Moon Poya Day and Buddhist principles.

Every Saturday Online Dhamma School: Children's Buddhism and Meditation Programmes: Letchworth, Milton Keynes & Bracknell

With the pandemic, our regular Children's Dhamma School become an online school. Lots of children joined as it gives the facility to join from home. **Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre** hosted this online Dhamma School weekly on every Saturday from **3PM till 5PM**. **Miss Padma Wijeratne, Mr Rasika Jayawardana, Professor Arosha Bandara and**

Dr Ajith De Silva also helped with conducting the programme. Children were learning Buddhism, Meditation, Chanting, Values, Culture and Sinhala Language.





Milton Keynes & Bracknell Community Dhamma School were not taking place due to the pandemic. They all joined the online Saturday Dhamma School.

Sri Lanka Child Sponsorship, Community Welfare Support, Charity Projects and Visits: From 26th February 2021:

We are very grateful to all our members for supporting the child sponsorship programmes and other welfare activities in Sri Lanka. Due to the outbreak of the pandemic, we have to do extra to help our children. Most of the meetings were held online as we were not able to visit in person.

Charity Projects in Sri Lanka for the Financial Year 2020 / 2021:

We shipped food items, baby food, medicine and sanitary items to **Sri Lanka on 26th October 2020** and few other times. Sri Lankans were struggling with economic and health crisis. We are very grateful for our community for stepping into help the needy people in Sri Lanka.

Stupa Building Project Completion in Sri Lanka: 23rd February 2021

We supported few building projects at community centres in Sri Lankan temples. Our Centre community supported a building work of the Pagoda at Sri Vijayarama Akurala Sri Lanka. It was completed on **23rd February 2021**. Special Ceremony was held and shared the blessings with all those who supported.

New Round up 2020-2021:

Venerable Akurala Samitha attended few events, extending Our Services and Valuable Contributions of Venerable Akurala Samitha to other temples and organizations in UK.

- The Global Ambedkarite Convention in London hosted an online Buddha Day Vesak Clebration on 09th May 2020. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the event.

- **Loving Mother of Mr Susil Nanayakkara passed away on 16th June 2020.** **Venerable Akurala Samitha** attended the house for a dana and merits transfer on **19th June 2020** at Danwala Estate, **Kiribathavila Baddegama Sri Lanka**.

- **Special Bodhi Pooja at Balapitiya Bodhirukkharamaya Kovilavatta Sri Lanka on 22nd June 2020:** During the pandemic Venerable Akurala Samitha did lots of spiritual and welfare support to Sri Lankan community. To mark the departure of Venerable Akurala Samitha, Most Venerable Galvehera Wimalasiri Nayaka Thero, Most Venerable Kosgoda Siriwimala Thero and other monks and the Sri Lankan community organized a special Bodhi Pooja Blessings Chanting to bless Venerable Akurala Samitha a safe journey. Most Venerable Randombe Gnanissara Thero conducted the pooja.

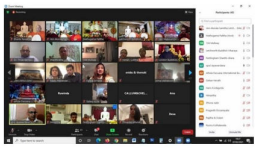
- **On 07th July 2020 Venerable Akurala Samitha** visited the residence of **Sri Lanka Navy Commander Admiral Piyal De Silva** to do a blessing as he was retiring after serving as **the chief officer of Sri Lanka Navy** from 2019 to 2020**. Most Venerable Kosgoda Siriwimala Thero** is **the spiritual advisor and chief chaplain for all three forces**. He arranged this special meeting of blessings. **Most Venerable Galvehera Wimalasiri Nayaka Thero** was also attended. Venerables also visited the residence of the **Commander of the Army (Sri Lanka) from 2019 till 2020**, **General Shavendra Silva**.

- **Mr Dilal Thilakaratne (02/08/1968 – 11/12/2020) Remembrance Dana Ceremony:** Friends of Mr Dilal Thilakaratne organised a special Food offering (Dana) Ceremony to mark **the 07th day** of his passing at Crystal Club, Wembley London. Three monks of the centre attended with **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** representing the centre. Event was online and they donated a laptop computer to the centre in memory of Mr Dilal Thilakaratne to do online programmes.

- **Sri Lanka High Commission in London** hosted an online webinar to create a platform for expatriates to come together and meet the Her Excellency the High Commissioner on **Friday 30th October 2020**. A discussion on enhancing connectivity

between the High Commission and the British Sri Lankans was held. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended the online event.

- **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Nayaka Thero's 75th Birthday**



celebrated on **07th February 2021. Venerable Akurala Samitha** and the resident monks attended a special online blessings programme to invoke the blessings to **Most Venerable Dediyawala Wimala Nayaka Thero,** the head monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara on **07th February 2021** to mark the **75th Birthday** of the **Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Nayaka Thero.** The blessings ceremony was organized by **Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Thero,** the head monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara**. The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in the UK, H.E. Saroja Sirisena** also joined the ceremony.

- **Online Dhamma Talk organized by Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara on 28th March 2021**: Venerable Akurala Samitha delivered a Dhamma Talk on 28th March 2021 to the community of Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara. **Most Venerable Dr Witharandeniye Kassapa Maha Thero OBE** (Deputy Chief Prelate of Great Britain & Head Monk of Birmingham Buddhist Maha Vihara, Stroke on Trent Vihara and Leicester Dharmasoka Buddhist Vihara) invited the talk. Family and friends of **Professor Punchibandara Sannasgala** sponsored the Dhamma Dana Talk in his loving memory to transfer merits to **Professor Punchibandara Sannasgala**.

Obituaries:

- **12th December 2020**: **Mr Dilal Thilakaratne (02/08/1968 – 11/12/2020):** A Special Merits Transfer Punya Anumodana Prayer blessings service was held on **12th December 2020** in Loving Memory of **Late Mr Dilal Thilakaratne** who passed away on **Friday 11th December 2020** at his residence in Colindale London. He is the husband of Mrs Dilrukshi and the father of two children daughter Manisha and son Thejan. He was a very long standing friend and a member of our centre and actively helped a lot in our activities. He was a very active member of the community and a political analyst. He was the former vice President of United National Party (UNP) UK Branch. He was very generous and kind person who supported many charitable works in UK and fond in cricket. Mr Brixcious Anthony, Mr Lalinda, Mr Rasika Shashpriya, Mr Dinesh Kapukotuwa and Mr Lasantha Perera attended the centre and lots of other friends and family joined the occasion online. He passed away from a heart attack.

- **21st January 2021: Mr Don Ariyaratna (02/11/1947 – 21/01/2021): Mr Don Ariyaratna** was a good friend of **Venerable Akurala Samitha** and was a good supporter of the centre. He passed away from Covid-19 on **21st of January 2021**. **Venerable Akurala Samitha** was the only monk to attend the funeral as no monks were available due to the risk of Covid. Funeral was held at **South Essex Crematorium, Upminster on 02nd February 2021**.

In Loving Memory

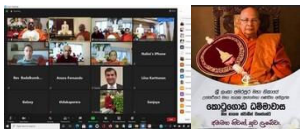
Don Ariyaratna
02/11/1947 - 21/01/2021

It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform you of the death of our beloved Husband, Father, Grandpa and Author of "Gems Of Sri Lanka" Passed away On January 21,2021

Services Will be held on February 02, 2021 at the South Essex Crematorium, Dickenson Road, Upminster, RM1 6DJ/R, UK

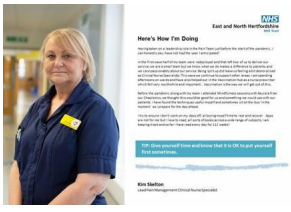
- **06th February 2021: Mrs Kamla Kumari Ram (30/12/1966 – 06/02/2021):** Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the funeral of **Mrs Kamla Kumari Ram** on **Monday 08th March 2021** at **North Hertfordshire Memorial Park & Crematorium, Holwell**.

- **22nd March 2021: Agga Maha Pandita Most Venerable Kotugoda Dhammawasa Maha Nayaka Thero: (23/01/1933 – 22/03/2021): The Supreme Prelate** (*uttaritara mahanayaka*) of **Sri Lanka Amarapura–Rāmañña** Nikāya and the chief incumbent of Sri Dharmapalaramaya, Mount Lavinia Sri Lanka passed away on **22nd March 2021**. A special merits transfer ceremony and tribute pooja was held at our centre on **29th March 2021**. **Most Venerable Dr Dato' Sumana Siri Nayaka Thero of Singapore Malaysia** organized the ceremony. Most Venerable Dediyawela Wimala Nayaka Thero (Head Monk of Letchworth Buddhist Vihara), Most Venerable Dickwelle Seelasumana Nayaka Thero (resident monk of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya), Most Venerable Kamburawala Sri Rewatha Nayaka Thero (Head Monk of Scotland Buddhist Vihara and Chief Prelate of Great Britain), Most Venerable Mathugama Palitha Thero (Head Monk of Cambridge Buddhist Vihara), Most Venerable Akurala Samitha Thero (Head of Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya and Milton Keynes Vihara) attended the merits transfer ceremony and offered dhamma talks. A large number of devotees attended online ceremony.



- **25th February 2021: Mrs Bualoy Crampton (00/00/1958 – 25/02/2021): Mrs Bualoy Crampton** passed away **aged 63**. Her husband **Mr Robert Crampton** and **Chenery Funeral Services Ltd** requested Venerable Akurala Samitha to conduct the funeral. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the funeral on **Tuesday 16th March 2021** at **North Hertfordshire Memorial Park and Crematorium**.

Lister Hospital Mindfulness Meditation Programmes: Venerable Akurala Samitha and Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne visit **Lister Hospital East & North Herts NHS Trust** to do regular weekly mindfulness meditation session. Venerable Akurala Samitha trained staff and patient and facilitates drop in sessions. Hospital News Letter features how the staff coped during the stressful times. Writing a personal review **08th February 2021**, to the hospital newsletter **Mrs Kim Kelton, Lead Pain Management Clinical Nurse Specialist** mentioned that "*before the pandemic along*


East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

Here's How I'm Doing

TIP: Give yourself time and know that it is OK to put yourself first sometimes.

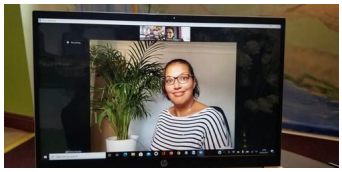
Kim Skelton
Lead Pain Management Clinical Nurse Specialist

with my team I attended Mindfulness sessions with Akurala (Bhante Samitha) from our chaplaincy, we thought this would be good for us and something we could use with our patients. I have found the techniques useful myself and sometimes sits on the bus in the moment as I prepare for the day ahead." That reflects how much it has benefited for the wider community.

St Francis' College Trust, Letchworth Positive Mental Health Evening Online Session 28-01-2021: Venerable Akurala Samitha gave a talk and guided meditation to the parents and staff of St Francis' College Trust in Letchworth on Mindfulness Meditation. Mrs Charlott McDermott organized it on Thursday 28th January 2021 via zoom. It was very well received by them and greatly appreciated.

Lister Hospital EN-NHS Trust, Maternity Bereavement Team Training Session on Mindfulness 26-03-2021: Venerable Akurala Samitha held a talk and a guided meditation session for the training for the maternity bereavement team at Lister Hospital **on Friday 26th March 2021**. It was organized by Ms Jacqui Hylton who is the midwife lead for bereavement.

Reviews, Feedbacks and Interviews to promote Mindfulness Meditation:



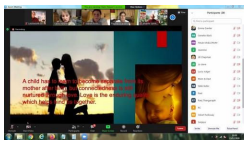
Members of the local community were extremely grateful for the meditation sessions and Bhante Samitha (Venerable Akurala Samitha's) teaching during the difficult times of pandemic. Few participants gave video feedback interviews to share publicly in gratitude for the services delivered by the centre. **Mr Joseph Abrams** gave a video feedback on **31st December 2020** and published on youtube channel. **Mrs Anne Howarth** was a senior member of the local community. She was reluctant to join online as technology was a challenge to adopt into. However with the help of the centre, she managed to get used to it and became very grateful for the support to given to pass the difficult times. She gave an interview feedback on **05th January 2021**. It was published on youtube channel for the public to view. **Mrs Anne Howarth** also revised her interview on **12th January 2021** that was given few years back. **Mrs Emma Davilar** was also extremely grateful for the centre services and helps available during the difficult times. She also gave an interview on **06th January 2021**.

Milton Keynes College (MK College) Mindfulness Meditation Workshops on 16th December 2020: Venerable Akurala Samitha did a **Mindfulness Meditation Session at MK College, Chaffron Way to children aged 15-17** who had a horrid time but want to make a change. **Mr Simon Wendt** who the tutor organised the session with **Mrs Lisa Boyd**.

Mindfulness Webinars hosted by Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya:

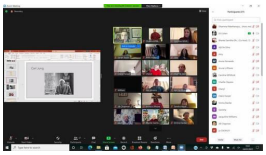
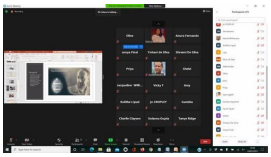
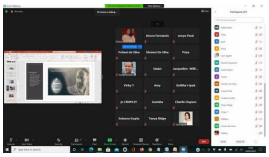
With the lock down, self-isolation and vaccine effects, lots of people in the community going through lots of mental health issues. In addition to the spiritual support, we organized monthly webinars to bring professionals, scholars and wellbeing practitioners together to share the knowledge.

Webinar on Loneliness on 13th December 2020 By Claire Harper: First webinar was

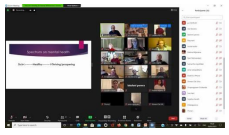


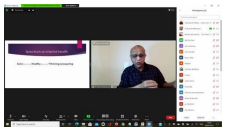
delivered by Miss Claire Harper. She was third year medical student and a meditation practitioner of the centre. Topic was a research paper she had done on her university course with Mindfulness Meditation. A large number of people attended online and had a very beneficial discussion.

Webinar on Sunday 24th January 2021: On Psychological Approaches to Mindfulness & Meditation: Past, Present and Future, by Dr Elliot Cohen (Senior Lecturer at Leeds Beckett University School of Social Sciences - Psychotherapist, Mindfulness Teacher & Member of Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Academy). There was an increased interest on these seminars. A good number of people attended online.

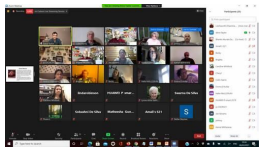




Webinar on Sunday 28th February 2021: on Positive Psychology & Mindfulness Meditation: The Art of Staying Present, Strong and Well; Through difficult times. By Dr Kamal Witharana (MD, MSc, FRSPH, PTLLS, IfI) (Medical Doctor in Public Health & Clinical Lecturer in UK; Divisional Director of Health Service in Sri Lanka; Associate Member of Positive Psychology Guild UK, Member of Pali Text Society & Mindfulness Meditation Researcher & Teacher)





Webinar on Sunday 28th March 2021: "Transformation through Suffering: How psychological turmoil can lead to spiritual awakening." By Dr Steve Taylor (Senior



Lecturer in psychology at Leeds Beckett University. He is the author of several best-selling (13) books, including his new book The Clear Light, Waking From Sleep, The Fall, Out of the Darkness, Back to Sanity, The Calm Centre, The Leap and Spiritual Science. He is the current chair of the Transpersonal Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society. His books have been published in 20 languages, and his articles and essays have been published in many academic journals, magazines and newspapers. He writes blog articles for Scientific American and for Psychology Today. Steve lives in Manchester, England with his wife and three young children. www.stevenmtaylor.com).

Mindfulness Meditation Courses and Psychotherapy Counselling Session:

Centre organizes Mindfulness Meditation Courses in **Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester**. It has been very beneficial to our multicultural community and those courses have been very popular. It also brought funds to the centre. Everyone deeply appreciated the wellbeing and happiness brought into their lives through teachings of Reverend Akurala Samithasiri (Bhante Samitha Akurala).

Mindfulness Meditation Retreats: Few One Day retreats were held in **Letchworth** during this year (2019-2020). Those were included from 6AM till 6PM whole day programme with silent meditation, guided meditation, mindfulness teaching, webinars, seminars, workshops, presentations, guest speakers, sharing lunch and discussion on selected topics.

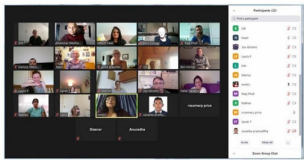
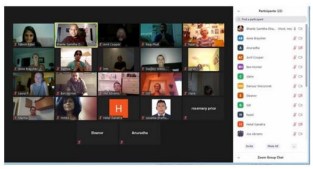
Letchworth Children's Mindfulness Course is held on every **First Saturday from 3PM till 5PM**. Significant number of children attended the session. Parents had real interest to up keep the course as those are very beneficial to the children for concentration and dealing with emotional difficulties.

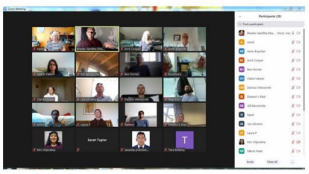
Letchworth Adults Beginners Mindfulness Courses:

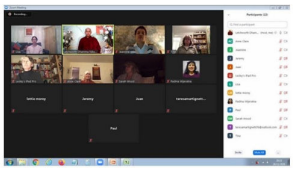
Centre held **Five courses** during this year for adults in Letchworth area. These were 08 weeks courses. **Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne** dedicated a lot to keep these courses up and raise funds for the centre. We are very grateful for her volunteer support.

Letchworth Course I: Started: 21-05-2020 Finished: 09-07-2020
Letchworth course II: Started: 16-07-2020 Finished: 03-09-2020
Letchworth Course III: Started: 10-09-2020 Finished: 29-10-2020
Letchworth Course IV: Started: 05-11-2020 Finished: 24-12-2020
Letchworth Course V: Started: 07-01-2021 Finished: 25-02-2021

Following are the pictures from Letchworth Adults Mindfulness Meditation Courses 2020-2021.

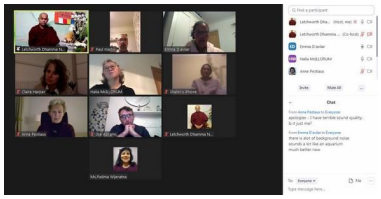
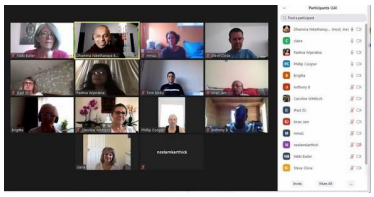







Advanced Mindfulness Course: Every Wednesday 7-9PM Every Wednesday Advanced Mindfulness Course is being held at Letchworth Dhamma Nikethanaya. **Five groups** were completed during the whole year.

Letchworth Advanced Mindfullness Course I: Started: 20-05-2020 Finished: 08-07-2020
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course II: Started 15-07-2020 Finished 02-09-2020
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course III: Started 09-09-2020 Finished 28-10-2020
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course IV: Started 04-11-2020 Finished 23-12-2020
Letchworth Advanced Mindfulness Course V: Started 06-01-2021 Finished 24-02-2021

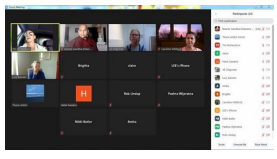
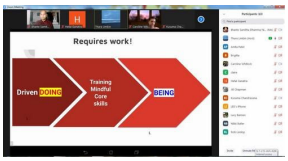



Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester Mindfulness Meditation Beginners Courses:

We did not have onsite Mindfulness Meditation Sessions after the pandemic. Therefore Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester people joined online on Thursday and Wednesday.

All our Mindfulness Meditation courses had been very successful. It has been a great help to the community. These also enabled funds to the up keep the centre.

Sunday Drop In Mindfulness Meditation in Letchworth: Every Sunday evening 7-9PM we

regularly host a session for the community to drop in for Mindfulness Meditation. With the outbreak of the pandemic, we hosted it online. It was a great success. **Dr Thura Limbin, Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne and Mr Glenn Everard** facilitate with teachings and hosting. Different subject were discussed and guide the community to attend the meditation regularly on every Sunday throughout the year.

Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions:

Due to the pandemic all our counselling sessions stopped but we managed to provide few online sessions. Mr Mark Brumwell continues to provide it on Mondays and Bhante Samitha also hosted few. We are very grateful to **Mr Mark Brumwell** for his voluntarily support to the centre. Bhante Samitha also conducts Counselling and Psychotherapy Session and all the funds go to the centre.

Licence to Operate as a Buddhist Centre & A place of Worship:

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation granted Reverend Akurala Samithasiri "Licence to operate as a Buddhist Centre at 69, Pix Road, Letchworth Garden City". Also it is a place of worship.

School Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE): Venerable Akurala Samitha is the Buddhist Advisor to both Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. He contributes into the School Advisory Council for Religious Education as a member.

North Herts Interfaith Forum: Venerable Akurala Samitha is a committee member of the North Herts Interfaith Forum and contributes to its activities to bring cohesion among the faith groups.

Fund Raising Financial Insights of the Year 2020-2021:

All our courses and teaching programmes are on donation basis. We managed to raise funds to the centre as follows.

Following list is just a general outline to show how the donations received and expenses maintained. Please look into the accountants report for more accurate figures.

Fund raising programmes:

- Beginners Mindfulness Meditation Online Courses in Letchworth, Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester.
- Diploma Mindfulness Meditation Courses online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Advanced Mindfulness Meditation Courses Online and onsite in Letchworth.
- Buddhism Online Courses in Letchworth.
- Children's Mindfulness Meditation Online Course in Letchworth.
- Psychotherapy & Counselling Sessions in Letchworth.
- Dana Donations received to the centre.
- Blessings Gratitude Donations received to the Centre.
- General Donations received to the centre.
- Donations received to the travel expenses towards the car.
- Child Sponsorship Project.
- Reverend Akurala Samithasiri contributed to the centre all the personal donations received to him (these are in addition to the above course funds.)
- Standing Order Subscriptions received to the Centre.
- General Donations Received to the centre account.
- Disaster Emergency help Fund received for helping Sri Lanka.
- Kathina Donation Received individually.
- Centre Standing Orders and General Donations.

Total income (Donations): = £63,379.00

- HMRC Gift Aid: £0.00

Total income (Donations): = £63,379.00

Expenses Break Down for the year 2020-2021:

- House Mortgage Rent & Hiring Community Centre Halls to host meditation and other events.
- Centre improvements.
- Gas, Electricity & Water.
- Telephone.
- Food.
- Motor, Travel & Transport.
- Monks Expenses and other expenses.
- Council Tax.

Total Expenses: = £61,984.00

Conclusion:

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 2020-2021 Year of the Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Centre was a very progressing year. We are very grateful to all our members and friends by supporting us to achieve another successful year. However we continued to face the most ever challenging year due to the Covid-19 Corona Virus pandemic with the beginning of the year 2021. It was even hard to survive as things like locked down and social distancing. However our members were very concerns about the welfare of the monks and helped the centre to survive through the difficult time. Monks even worked tirelessly to help the needy by taking a huge risk.

We managed to make a big difference to the livelihood in our local community especially through mental health services and children programmes and also our international community, particularly Sri Lanka. We are very impressed with the voluntary support and goodwill of our devotees to up keep our services and events.

Our projects in Sri Lanka are also very demanding due the economic crisis and pandemic in Sri Lanka. We have to do extra help. We are happy to help children to get their studies and other necessities. Our education projects for the needy children in Sri Lanka had been a great need. However their lives in Sri Lanka are getting much harder and they are in a hedge of a financial crisis due this pandemic. We may have to do little bit more towards them. We endeavour to develop our support to them little bit more in the next year.

We are pleased to see a good and growing interest from our local community on our Mindfulness Courses, Meditation Sessions, sychotherapy and Counselling session. We also determine to extend those services into our multicultural community in the forthcoming year. Those courses, voluntary services and teachings have changed the lives without any obligation to gender, race, religion, ethnicity or age.

On behalf of the trustees of Dhamma Nikethanaya International Community Centre for Education, Meditation, Psychotherapy & Counselling (UK Registered Charity Number 1116187), we would like to thank all our supporters and well wishes for helping our charity fundraising events encouraging us to continue our charitable services for the benefit of the public. We look forward to see more new members joining to strengthen our community wellbeing projects and make our charity efforts a success.

Thank you.

.....	.....	.....
Mrs Rathnawalie Dep	Reverend Akurala Samitahsiri	Miss Padmalatha Wijeratne
Secretary	President	Treasurer