



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

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Sunday 03rd April 2022

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 trustee 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 dismissal 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.

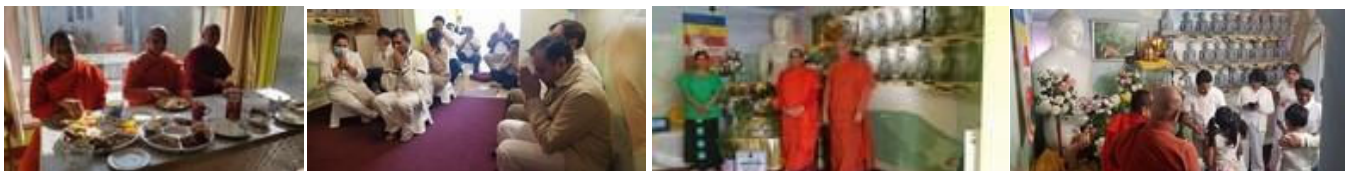
2021-2022 Annual Report: (01-04-2021 & 31-03-2022)

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 along 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



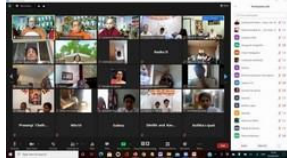
the members joined online and onsite for a day programme with observing higher precepts, homage,



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 friends. (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, Daughter 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.

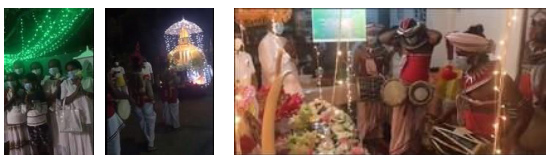


Sri Lanka Charity Work: Temple Construction & Building work.



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 **Balapitiya Bodhirukkhamaya 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.

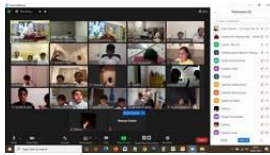
We had a day programme on **26th June 2021** to observe Poson Full Moon Poya Day with observing Ata (eight) sil (precepts), meditation, Buddha pooja, Bodhi pooja and dhamma discussions.

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).

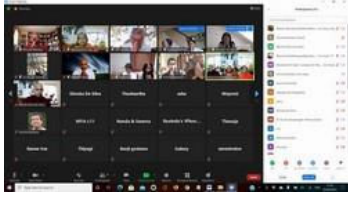
Children Programmes and Dhamma School: Every Saturday 3.30PM till 5PM



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 Srma 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

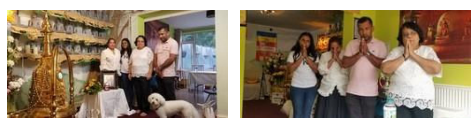


November 2021.

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



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



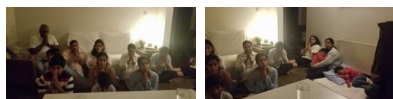
A Special Atavisi Sambuddha Pooja was held to mark the **Binara Full Moon**



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 occasion 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 Srimala 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 Dediawela 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 Dediawela 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 Venerable 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 Malaysia 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**. Venerable 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 celebrated 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 Dediawala 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 commemorate 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 Wijewardhana**.

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

Mr Brixious 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 Dediawela 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 Vihara), **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.



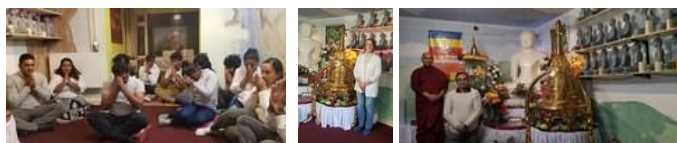
Mrs Hansika and Mr Pravindra Disanayake hosted a house dana in loving memory of their beloved father **Mr Alankarage Arnet Indrapala De Silva on his 7th Day remembrance On 31st December 2021**. Venerable Akurala Samitha conducted the ceremony.

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.



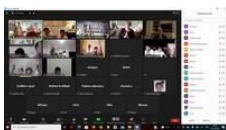
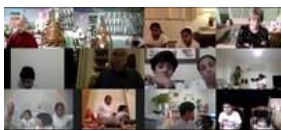
Year End Blessings: Christmas Blessings programme on 24th December 2021: We hosted an online blessings and meditation programme to share spiritual blessings on Christmas. A good number of people joined the online session.

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.



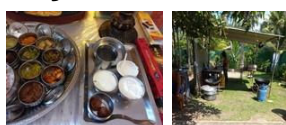
Venerable Akurala Samitha's Mother's 06th Year Remembrance Ceremony and Father's 07th Dana: on 05th February 2022:



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 Dediawela 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.

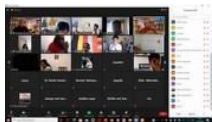
He became a good friend of Venerable Bhante Samitha, Miss Padma Wijeratne and all the members of the centre. He always liked what we did in the local community and deeply

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.

Venerable 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 Freddie) 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 Seedeve Kuruppu and family and Mrs Kanthi Silva; Daughter Dr Tina Fernando, Son-in-law Dr Sangeeth Fernando, Grand Children Josuwa & Benjamin & Family;** to 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:



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:



Visiting 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.

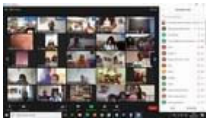







Sri Lankan Independent Day was celebrated on Saturday 05th February 2022:

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 Ariyaratna sponsored the programme.

- **16th May 2021 Vesak Buddha Day Celebration 2565** organized 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 speeches. 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 Reverend 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 Dediawela 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 Remembrance 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, Purton 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.


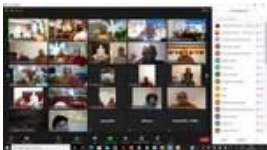
- **15th January 2022: Late Mr Chandra Bahadur Nakarmi, Beloved father of Venerable Nepal Suman. Third Months Remembrance Dana Pinkama Merits Sharing** was held at **Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, Hendon**. Venerable Akurala Samitha attended



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 & Milton 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 Dediawela 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 Brixious 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 Dediyaawela 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 Dediawela 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 Phuoc 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 Phuoc 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 Phuoc 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 Association 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**.

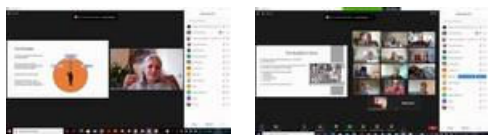
Mindfulness Meditation Programmes:

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:



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.

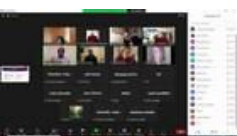
Webinar on Sunday 27th June 2021: On Finding true happiness within you. Positive



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 delivered 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.

Webinar 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, Ifl) (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 listeners 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, Ifl) (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 listeners 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, Ifl) (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 listeners 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, Ifl). Everyone enjoyed the webinar and appreciated the opportunity. A large number of listeners joined the programme.



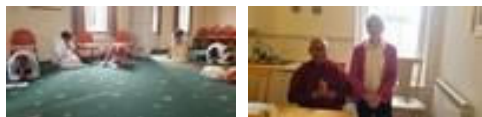
Mindfulness Meditation Courses and Psychotherapy Counselling Session:



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 organized 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 Mindfulness 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

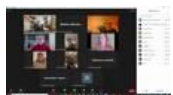
Bedford, Milton Keynes and Godmanchester Mindfulness Meditation Beginners Courses:

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 of them visited the 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 be used to 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 guided the community to attend the meditation regularly on every Sunday throughout the year.

Tuesday Drop In Mindfulness Meditation Session: Mr Paul Goddad facilitates 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. Venerable 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.

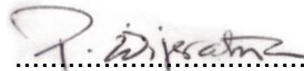
We are pleased to see a good and growing interest from our local community on our Mindfulness Courses, Meditation Sessions, Psychotherapy and Counselling session. We also determine to extend those services into our multicultural community in the forthcoming year. Those courses, voluntary services and 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:

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

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Donations	80,682	63,379
HMRC Gift Aid	20,875	0
	<u>101,557</u>	<u>63,379</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
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	<u>930</u>	<u>120</u>
	90,388	61,984
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year	11,169	1,395
Total funds brought forward	<u>10,916</u>	<u>9,521</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>22,086</u>	<u>10,916</u>

Dhamma Nikethanaya Buddhist Cultural Centre

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2022

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Motor vehicle	33,500		33,500
Accum. Depreciation	(25,550)		(22,900)
Annual Depreciation	<u>(1,987)</u>	5,962	<u>(2,650)</u> 7,950
Meditation Hall		24,693	24,693
		<u>30,655</u>	<u>32,643</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash at bank		19,389	5,144
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Loans	13,177		18,844
Creditors and accruals	<u>14,781</u>	(27,958)	<u>8,027</u> (26,871)
Net Assets		<u>22,086</u>	<u>10,916</u>
<u>Funds</u>			
Brought forward		10,916	9,521
Surplus (Loss) from I&E		11,169	1,395
		<u>22,086</u>	<u>10,916</u>

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.