

BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER

England & Wales · Charity number 1188791

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-03-30

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 3 Grosvenor Square
Sale
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Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE THE TEACHING OF THE BUDDHA

Activities: Meetings open to the public to discuss aspects of Buddhism and Buddhist practice.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-20	£7,187	£9,786	-	-
2024-01-20	£8,912	£6,273	-	-
2023-01-20	£7,070	£6,524	-	-
2022-01-20	£0	£0	-	-
2021-01-20	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Frederick Shambrook	Chair	2020-03-05
ANTHONY JOHN REYNOLDS		2020-03-05
KENNETH GARROD		2020-03-05
Luke Jonathan Tennant		2020-03-05
Sally Johanna Tennant		2020-03-05

BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER

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CIO 1188791 - January 2024 to January 2025

Buddhist Society of Manchester

January 2024 to January 2025 has been another positive year for the society. Numbers attending meetings have continued to be good. There are 42 members, and an additional 51 “Friends” contacts on the database who are circulated with information about meetings, retreats etc.

The annual Vesak celebration (known more generally as “Buddha Day”) was held on the 26th of May, and the event was made accessible on-line so that members who have moved away from Manchester could join remotely.

A retreat was held on the weekend of 23rd June 2024 at Brinscall Hall, Chorley, with over 20 participants, and was a great success. The venue worked very well and is closer to Manchester than other retreat centres used in the past, making it more accessible for members and friends.

The society has close ties with Ajahn Sudhiro, a senior Thai Buddhist monk who regularly visits the UK to lead retreats and events. In September 2024 an appeal was launched in support of the establishment of a monastery in the UK where Ajahn Sudhiro would be resident for periods of time, a community of monks and nuns could be developed and retreat opportunities made available for the lay community. The society made a donation of £5,000 to the appeal (Buddha Metta Society UK a registered charity) and the search for suitable premises is ongoing.

During his visit to the UK in 2024, Ajahn Sudhiro presided at a “Living In Dhamma” weekend at Brinscall Hall, enabling a number of society members and friends to visit and benefit from his presence and teachings.

In November 2024 the society was delighted to host a visit of Venerable Ajahn Sudhiro. Whilst staying at the society’s premises Ajahn Sudhiro was able to host a meeting open to the public, and enable members and friends to participate in traditional food offerings and other ceremonial activities.

In addition to the three open public meetings held each week, there are meditation meetings held on two Fridays each month. The society remains financially sound, and income from donations more than covers the costs associated with the upkeep of the society premises.

To conclude, this last year has seen the society maintaining a healthy attendance at meetings, and enjoying a sustainable income from donations all of which bodes well for the future.

Luke Tennant,

Society Chair

Buddhist Society of Manchester CIO 1188791
Expenditure and Income Account for the Financial Year Ended 20th
January 2025

Expenditure

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Electricity	399.07	324.08
Gas	730.99	422.84
Telephone	145.13	140.76
Water Rates	233.03	195.81
	-----	-----
Utility sub-total	1,508.22	1,083.49
Insurance	741.52	697.15
Donation BMP	5,000	
Retreat costs	1,225.00	1,150.00
Books	275.69	
Booklets	718.00	
Bay windows		1,725.00
Decoration		1,244.58
Garden		850.24
Misc.	318.18	606.84
	-----	-----
Total exp:	9,786.61	7,357.30

Income

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Donations	6,427.78	8,062.45
Subscriptions	760.00	850.00
	-----	-----
Total income	7,187.78	8,912.45

Society current account balance at 20th January 2025 = £8,295.96

Utilities

Energy cost is up on the previous year, as the contract secured at pre-increase prices commencing June 2022 ended in October 2024, and we are now on the same kind of tariffs endured by all. We are still working with Utility Aid, an agency which assists charities to secure good deals with utility companies.

Support for the Wat Buddha Metta UK Charity

The Society has close ties with the above charity, which is aiming to purchase a suitable property for the establishment of a monastic community in the UK. The project is completely in line with the aims of the Society, and will be of great benefit both to the membership of the Society and the general community. In order to assist with the accumulation of funds for the project, the Society donated £5,000 to the Wat Buddha Metta UK Charity in November 2024.

Retreat

A retreat was held in June at Brinscall Hall, Clitheroe, and the hire cost was £1,225. This cost was covered by participants' donations to the society.

General note on income:

To get a clearer idea of income from donations and subscriptions, the cost of the retreat (which self-funds through donations from retreat attendees), and book royalties, which adds up to £1,503, should be subtracted from the total income of £7,187. This results in a figure of £5,784 for donations from standing orders, the donations bowl and subscriptions.

This is a little down on last year's income from standing orders, the donations bowl and subscriptions, which was £6,407.

The donations from standing orders alone still more than cover basic running costs, and overall income continues to allow a good level of funding for looking after the house and garden.

At 4th July 2025 the balance of the society's account was **£7,538**

BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER

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CIO 1188791 - January 2023 to January 2024

Buddhist Society of Manchester

The Trustees report for 2022/23 outlined the status of the transfer of the existing charity to a CIO, which awaited transfer of the assets (primarily the Society house at 3, Grosvenor Square, Sale M33 6QU) to the new CIO by the Land Registry. This was finally completed late January 2023. As required by the existing charity constitution, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 26/03/2023 to formally close the old charity down. This was then effected on-line with the Charity Commission on 28/03/23.

January 2023 to January 2024 has been a continuation of recovery from the pandemic and an establishment of a “new normal”. Numbers attending meetings have continued to be good, and attain those of pre-pandemic times. Two new members have joined, making a total of 51, and there are an additional 39 “Friends” contacts on the database who are circulated with information about meetings, retreats etc.

A retreat was held in April 2023 at Brinscall Hall, Chorley, with over 20 participants, and was a great success. The venue worked very well and is closer to Manchester than other retreat centres used in the past, making it more accessible for members and friends.

In addition to the three open public meetings held each week, there are meditation meetings held on two Fridays each month, and a Dhammapada study group once a month.

In August 2023 the Society was delighted to host a visit of Venerable Ajahn Sudhiro, a senior Thai monk in the Theravada tradition. Whilst staying at the Society's premises Ajahn Sudhiro was able to host a meeting open to the public, and enable members and friends to participate in traditional food offerings and other ceremonial activities.

The garden at the rear of the property was completed in the summer, and provides a pleasant space for relaxation and socialising.

To conclude, this last year has seen the Society completing various practical and legal projects, enjoying a sustainable income from donations, and maintaining a healthy attendance at meetings, all of which bodes well for the future.

Paul Shambrook

Society Chair

Buddhist Society of Manchester CIO 1188791
Expenditure and Income Account for the Financial Year Ended 20th
January 2024

Expenditure	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Electricity	324.08	395.46
Gas	422.84	629.70
Telephone	140.76	140.76
Water Rates	195.81	125.72
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Utility sub-total	1,083.49	1,291.64
Insurance	697.15	576.52
House		
Maintenance		395.00
Retreat costs	1,150.00	1,600.00
Booklets		431.49
Books		228.48
Bay windows	1,725.00	1,725.00
Stone circle		276.66
Decoration	1,244.58	
Garden	850.24	
Misc.	606.84	
	-----	-----
Total exp:	6,273.81	6,524.79
Income	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Donations	8,062.45	6,063.77
Subscriptions	850.00	720.00
Book royalties		286.72
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Total income	8,912.45	7,070.49

Society current account balance at 20th January 2024 = £11,751.41

Utilities

Energy use is down on the previous year, and it's possible this can be partly attributed to the installation of double-glazing in the main meeting room. A 28 month contract was secured commencing June 2022, so the abrupt rise in energy costs did not impact on the society in the winters of 2023/24. The contract ends this October, and higher energy charges will commence then, so increases in costs for gas and electricity are inevitable for next year.

Retreat

A retreat was held in April at Brinscall Hall, Clitheroe, and the hire cost was £1,150. This cost was covered by participants' donations to the society.

Bay Windows Final Payment

Some deterioration in the wooden window frames to the front bay had been noted, and rather than repairing this it was decided to replace the frames with double-glazing to improve heat and sound insulation. The 50% deposit was paid in December 2022, the work carried out in February 2023 and the final payment made.

Decoration

A decorating firm was brought in to restore the top bedroom to good order after the roof work and to freshen up the top stairs and landing.

Garden

The costs for the garden covered trellises, the arbour seat, plants and weed suppression materials.

General note on income:

To get a clearer idea of income from donations and subscriptions, the cost of the retreat (which self-funds through donations from retreat attendees), the legacy from Christina Chapman and the book royalties, which adds up to £2,505, should be subtracted from the total income of £8,912. This results in a figure of £6,407 for donations from standing orders, the donations bowl and subscriptions.

This is well up on the previous year, and possibly reflects an increase in membership, and meetings getting back up to good attendance after the pandemic.

The donations from standing orders alone more than cover basic running costs, and overall income continues to allow a good level of funding for looking after the house and garden.

As a result of changing to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the bank account also needed changing. This has now been finalised and currently direct debits and later standing orders will be transferred to the new account and the old one closed.

At 5th June 2024 the balance of the society's account was **£12,790**

BUDDHIST SOCIETY OF MANCHESTER

England & Wales - Charity number 1188791

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Trustees Annual Report and Accounts
CIO 1188791 - January 2022 to January 2023

Buddhist Society of Manchester

The committee of the Buddhist Society of Manchester (Charity number 1072411) applied to the Charity Commission in 2020 to change to a CIO. This was granted on 07/09/2020 in the same title of “Buddhist Society of Manchester” CIO 1188791.

The application had been made with the assistance of a solicitor, and they advised that the next step after the CIO was granted was the transfer of the assets from the existing charity (1072411) to the new CIO. The main asset was the terraced house property which the society owns, at 3, Grosvenor Square, Sale M33 6QU.

The solicitor made the application to the Land Registry in October 2020 to make the transfer, and advised that until the transfer was complete we should continue to operate under the existing charity (1072411) and not close it down. Due to the pandemic the Land Registry has developed a large backlog of applications and the solicitor was still awaiting a result, well over a year later. The new CIO therefore had not been operative since its creation, and all account details and activity had been recorded using the annual return process for charity number 1072411.

The asset transfer was finally completed late January 2023. As required by the constitution of the “old” charity (1072411) an Extraordinary General Meeting was held on March 26th 2023 to agree the closure of the charity. This was agreed and the online process to close the charity 1072411 was carried out on March 28th 2023.

As the old charity no longer exists, the accounts for the period January 20th 2022 to January 20th 2023 are being reported under the new CIO, and this report will also cover that period.

January, February and March 2022 saw the premises of the CIO still closed due to the latter end of the Covid pandemic. The main meeting room can only accommodate about fifteen people, with no possibility of the social distancing requirements being met. During

this time a large meeting room was hired for one evening a week at the Light of Hope Centre a short distance from the Buddhist Society premises. Here it was possible to safely observe social distancing requirements for up to ten people, enabling some continuity of society meetings, which were of great benefit to those who could attend.

In addition throughout the pandemic, meetings on-line using the "Zoom" facility had been established, and this also helped a great deal with members being able to keep up a level of contact throughout lock-down and beyond. This had a secondary benefit of bringing some older members who had moved away from Manchester back into contact via the on-line sessions, and as a result Zoom meetings have been continued beyond the resumption of normal meetings being re-established back at the society house.

Normal meetings open to the public were recommenced at the society house in April 2022. Good numbers began to attend straight away, although it took a while for some members to feel confident again about meeting with others in a relatively confined space.

The remainder of 2022 has felt like a period of getting back to some kind of "new normal", and to a great degree this has been achieved, with meetings sustaining good numbers attending.

A residential retreat at Hill Cottage Retreat Centre (mid-Wales) was held in early September, with eighteen people attending.

On a practical note whilst the house was closed during the pandemic, a request to set up standing orders for regular monthly donations was made to members, as cash donations made at meetings could no longer be made, but running costs still had to be covered. A number of members kindly took the request up, and as a result the running costs of the society are now more than covered by the existing standing orders.

The society has emerged from a difficult time in a buoyant mood, and now looks forward to ongoing activities and meetings at the house, and a positive future.

Paul Shambrook
Chairman

Buddhist Society of Manchester CIO 1188791
Expenditure and Income Account for the Financial Year Ended 20th
January 2023

Expenditure	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Electricity	395.46	822.62
Gas	629.70	1,412.28
Telephone	140.76	140.70
Water Rates	125.72	259.50
	-----	-----
Utility sub-total	1,291.64	2,635.10
Insurance	576.52	695.30
House		
Maintenance	395.00	242.00
Retreat costs	1,600.00	1,440.00
Booklets	431.49	1,131.00
Books	228.48	
Air filter		869.00
Bay windows	1,725.00	
Stone circle	276.66	
	-----	-----
Total exp:	6,524.79	7,012.10
Income	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Donations	6,063.77	7,497.12
Subscriptions	720.00	760.00
Book royalties	286.72	1,927.61
	-----	-----
Total income	7,070.49	10,184.73

Society current account balance at 20th January 2023 = £9,323.95

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CIO 1188791

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The solicitor made the application to the Land Registry in October 2020 to make the transfer, and advised that until the transfer was complete we should continue to operate under the existing charity (1072411) and not close it down. Due to the pandemic the Land Registry has developed a large backlog of applications and the solicitor is still awaiting a result, well over a year later. The Land Registry was in contact in January 2022 with a query, which we answered, and we hoped that the submission was being processed and would be completed soon.

However since January 2022 we have received nothing further from the Land Registry. In late 2022 we contacted the solicitor dealing with our submission, and suggested that they should email the Land Registry, urging them to grant the application, as it was holding up completion of the CIO, and this was hindering application for Gift Aid which would help off-set the increases in energy costs etc to the society. Again, to date, nothing has been received from the Land Registry.

The new CIO therefore has not been operative since its creation, and all account details and activity (including income and expenditure for 2021/22) has been recorded using the annual return process for charity number 1072411.

The Charity Commission contacted us in 2022 to ask why the annual return for the new CIO had not been made, and when the above was explained requested the submission of a nil return and annual report indicating the situation.

This document represents that return, updated now for 2021/22, as the overall situation remains unchanged. It is hoped that the Land Registry transfer will be completed soon, at which point the charity number 1072411 will be closed down and after that all necessary returns will be made under the new CIO 1188791.

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The new CIO therefore has not been operative since its creation, and all account details and activity has been recorded using the annual return process for charity number 1072411.

The Charity Commission contacted us to ask why the annual return for the new CIO had not been made, and when the above was explained requested the submission of a nil return and annual report indicating the situation.

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