



29/31 Osler Street, Birmingham B16 9EU

0121 454 6591

www.birminghambuddhistvihara.org

Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

The Trustees present their report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025. They have been prepared in the light of the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities and the Charities' Act.

Administrative Information:

Charity Name: Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust

Charity Commission Reg No:513368

Address: Birmingham Buddhist Vihara
Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda
29/31 Osler Street, Ladywood
Birmingham
B16 9EU

Trustees for the period:

Chair: Suraj Prakash Lal

Secretary: Maung Maung Kyi

Treasurer: Su Theingi Thant

Trustees: Mar Mar Lwin
Adrian Thompson

Spiritual Leader: Venerable Dr. Ottara Nyana

Independent Examiner: Mr. A. Dervish
496-498 Bearwood Road, Bearwood
Birmingham, B66 4BH

Bank Details: Barclays Bank Plc
Leicester
LE87 2BB

NatWest Bank Plc
Edgbaston (B) Branch
30a Harborne Road
Edgbaston
Birmingham
B15 3AA

Structure, Governance and Management

The trust is governed by a trust deed dated November 1982 with an addendum dated May 2003. There is a provision for a maximum of nine trustees with a minimum of five. When there is a vacancy, the spiritual director puts forward names that the remaining trustees then consider, trying to ensure there is an even representation of gender, ethnicity, and interests. All trustees must be practising Buddhists. The trust has taken advice and is in the process of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The constitution in relation to this has been drawn and is in the final stages of being ratified.

Objective

The objectives of the charity are to promote the study and practice of Buddhism according to the traditions of all schools of Buddhism, but particularly the Theravada School. To this end the trust presently supports a Spiritual Director and three other Myanmar Buddhist monks who reside at the monastery (Vihara) on Osler Street.

They teach basic Buddhism as well as run higher Buddhist (Abhidhamma) theological classes, perform religious rites as required, look after the religious and spiritual needs of the laity. Buddhist monks are traditionally totally reliant on the monastery and donations from their devotees for their basic needs.

Management

The trust relies mainly on volunteers. But as one of the monks is undergoing long term medical treatment, we took on a paid volunteer for housekeeping purposes and to look after the monks. The trust also applied for Certificate of Sponsorship from the Home Office and applied for a Tier5 Temporary one year work visa for a volunteer (Kappiya) for one year. We were successful in the application and were able to bring a Kappiya over in October 2024, whose main task was looking after the welfare and daily needs of the four resident monks.

The trustees meet regularly to plan events and to oversee the running of the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara and the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda.

Activities at Birmingham Buddhist Vihara

Meditation Classes

Meditation sessions on Mondays and Thursday evenings on a regular basis with regular attendees.

Retreats

A 10 Days Vipassana retreat was held at the Vihara from 16th Aug to 25th Aug 2024.

Publications

Two books were published in Myanmar:

Dr. Rewata Dhamma, Biography of a Missionary Monk by Dr. Ottara Nyana Sangha and Royalty, The symbiotic relationship in ancient Bagan.

Religious Events held at the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda

The Buddha Day {Vesak}

Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust hosted the Vesak Ceremony on Sunday 26th May 2024. About 150 devotees attended the ceremony

Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda Anniversary & Dhammacakka Day

Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda's 26th Anniversary, Vassa Ceremony and Dhammacakka Day was held on Sunday 21st July 2024.

Food Dana was sponsored by devotees Mr. Leslie Gray and Daw Khin Myo Thant.

About 250 devotees were in attendance for the day ceremony during which an

Abhidhamma & Pavarana Day Chanting

Our celebration on Pavarana Day with offering of light inside and outside the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda took place in the evening of 17th October 2024. This was followed by Patthana chanting for World Peace, Metta, loving kindness to all beings. About 100 devotees attended and were treated to tea and samosas.

Kathina Robe Offering Ceremony

Kathina ceremony was held on Sunday 20th October 2024. The ceremony was sponsored by Dr. Yu Thandar Aung and Dr. Yu Sandar Aung.

The celebrations were attended by more than 200 devotees.

Patthana-Abhidhamma Chanting

The bhikkhus observed an auspicious recitation to welcome the New Year 2025, on New Year's Day Wednesday 1st January 2025. There was an offering of light and Patthana chanting. It was attended by about 60 devotees.

Birmingham Heritage Week

Sponsored by Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Museums Trust organised the Birmingham Heritage Week 2023 from 6th -15th September 2024. The week consisted of varied events, exhibitions and displays, walks, talks and open day visits to heritage sites around Birmingham City. There were 150 sites taking part in the event.

Birmingham Buddhist Vihara had open days over the 10 days of the event. It was well received, and complimentary comments were recorded in the visitors' book with over 300 guests visiting the Vihara.

Birmingham Buddhist Vihara will continue to take part in future Birmingham Heritage Week.

Other Religious/Non-Religious Activities

Birmingham Buddhist Academy

The academy, situated in Rewata Dhamma Hall, was able to continue with the Abhidhamma Course as it was run on-line. The new semester started on 1st September 2024.

Ven. Dr. Ottara Nyana and Ven. Dr. Nagasena continue to teach on the course. There is also an on-line course on Pali.

Interfaith Activities

Birmingham Faith Leaders' Group Meetings

Ven. Dr. Ottara Nyana, as Buddhist Spiritual Leader, attended the Birmingham Faith Leaders' Group first meeting for the year 2025 was held on 21st January 2025.

The second meeting was held on 11th March 2025.

Installation of the Bishop of Birmingham

Ven. Dr. Ottara Nyana attended the Installation of The Right Reverend Dr. Michael Volland as the 10th Bishop of Birmingham held on Saturday 2nd March 2024 at the Cathedral Church of St. Philip, Birmingham. The Ceremony was also attended by all Faith Leaders of the City of Birmingham.

Interfaith Iftar Dinner

An Interfaith Dinner was hosted by Abrahamic Foundation, Birmingham Progressive Synagogue, Dialogue Society on Thursday 20th March 2025 at the Grand Hall, University of Birmingham. Ven. Dr. Ottara Nyana attended the event as a Buddhist representative.

Ikon Art Exhibition

On 20th March 2025 Ven. Dr. Ottara Nyana was invited to give a speech at the art exhibition held at the Ikon Gallery in Brindley Place.

Interfaith Reception

An Interfaith reception was to meet with Rt. Reverend Dr. Michael Volland, the new Bishop of Birmingham was held on Tuesday 30th April 2024 at John Cadbury House in Central Birmingham. It was attended by Maung Maung Kyi, one of our trustees, representing the Vihara.

Interfaith Event at Al Mahdi Institute

Ven. Dr. Nagasena attended an Interfaith Event hosted by Al Mahdi Institute on the theme of "Towards One Family of Humanity". It was organised by Universal Peace Federation and was attended by a diverse audience of 150 attendees.

Conference

The University of Oxford and Yin-Cheng Buddhist Studies Network held one day conference on Theravada and East Asia on 29th June 2024

West on Lecture Theatre, Weston Library.

Ven. Dr. Nagasena took part in the conference

Wedding Ceremonies

22nd June 2024

Ko Min Thu Yein and Dr. Khin Nyein Chan Thein had their wedding ceremony blessed at the Vihara by their offering of Dana to the monks and friends.

14th July 2024

Dr. Kyaw Zaw and Dr. Yadana Lwin offered Dana to the resident monks and invited guests to celebrate their wedding at the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda.

27th July 2024

Dr. Tin Htun Aung and Dr. Phyo Thinzar Aung celebrated their wedding by offering Dana to the monks and friends at the Vihara.

8th September 2024

Dr. Nyan Lin Naing and Dr. Khin Chit Zin had their wedding blessed by offering Dana to the monks at Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda with 70 invited guests.

19th October 2024

Dr. Zaw Htet and Dr. Khine Win War had their wedding at the Vihara and had blessings from the resident monks by offering Dana.

26th October 2024

Dr. Kaung Htet Htun and Dr. Khin Zar Khun held a religious wedding ceremony by offering Dana to the monks and friends.

31st October 2024

Dr. Thin Zar Myint and Michael Enerio celebrated their pre-wedding ceremony by offering Dana to the monks and friends and invited guests.

17th November 2024

Dr. Nyan Nyin Hon and Dmytro Kovalchuk offered wedding Dana to the monks and friends and had their wedding blessed.

16th March 2025

Kristof Nesselfeld and Myat Eindra Cho held their wedding ceremony by offering alms at Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda with friends in attendance.

Birthday celebrations

21st December 2024 – A Birthday food Dana and celebrations ceremony was held by three December born devotees. They also donated a sound system to be used in the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda.

Silver Anniversary Celebration – 18th February 2024

Dr. Chit Win Saing and Dr. Sandar Kyaw invited friends from all over UK to join in their Dana and water-libation ceremony. They also donated furniture for use in the library.

Memorial Service for Ann Monica Lovelock 3rd November 2024

An interfaith memorial service for Ann Lovelock held at Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda at 7pm. It was well attended by family, friends of all Faiths, devotees of the Vihara, friends and neighbours from Hagley. Ann's passing was a huge loss not only to the Trust but to other Buddhist organisations in Birmingham. She joined the trust from its inception by Ven. Dr. Rewata Dhamma in 1981. As treasurer she managed the budgetary needs of the Trust for decades. She was Chair of the Trust when she resigned due to ill health. Ann's legacy lives on.

Religious Education School Visits

The Ladywood interfaith Education Project (LIEP), which was initiated by John Tatlow of St. John & St. Peter's parish Church, in 1999 in partnership with Ven. Dr. Rewata Dhamma of Birmingham Buddhist Vihara. Birmingham Progressive Synagogue and Masjid-e-Usman Mosque joined the group with the aim of enhancing religious education of the schools involved in the area.

Since RE became part of the national curriculum, LIEP as such has ceased to exist. Schools from within the region, as well as schools from further reaches have come to visit the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda and the Vihara every year on a regular basis.

Fifty-eight schools visited Birmingham Buddhist Vihara during the school term between September 2024 to July 2025. Most were primary schools from within the Midlands. One visit was GCSE pupils from a grammar school, six visits from private schools, one from a vocational college and one visit from university students. One scout group visited as well.

Outreach

The Pagoda has hosted group visits not only from schools, colleges, and universities, but other groups have visited us as well.

12th May 2024

A Scouts Group from Walsall visited the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda as part of a religious education visit.

28th March 2025

Stitching and Sewing Club paid a visit to Birmingham Buddhist Vihara. Ven. Uttara Nyana gave a talk to the group on Meditation.

The Pagoda is open during the day for visitors. During school visits it is closed to the public. We are aware of our public benefit responsibility and make sure we welcome all visitors of any faith or none.

Ven. Dr. Uttara Nyana is a member of the Birmingham Faith Leaders' Group. The monks have open links with other Buddhist Viharas (Myanmar, Thais, Sri Lankan, Tibetan, Vietnamese) in London, Birmingham, Rugeley, Oxford, Sheffield,

Manchester, and Sunderland.

Our resident monks do home visits for devotees wanting to have their homes blessed, for birthday celebrations, for memorial services etc. They travel to homes in London, Swansea, Cardiff, Leicester, Coventry, Northampton, Nottingham, Newark, Middlesbrough, Norfolk, Shrewsbury, Manchester, etc.

Religious Activities Abroad

Belgium

30th July 2024 to 8th August 2024

Ven. Ottara Nyana conducted a Metta Meditation 10-day Retreat which was held in Dhammaramsi Centre in Belgium.

25th October 2024 to 3rd November 2024

Ven. Ottara Nyana held a Metta & Sacca (Four Noble Truth) Retreat at Dhammaramsi Centre in Belgium. He taught Abhidhamma in the morning/ 10am to 11am) and Vipassana Mahasatipatthana Sutta (in afternoon from 2pm to 3pm) with a Q&A session in the evenings from 7pm to 9pm.

Cork, Republic of Ireland

Ven. Dr. Nagasena was invited to attend a Buddha Day Ceremony organised by Bangladesh Buddhist Association of Ireland on 2nd July 2024.

Paris, France

Ven. Dr. Nagasena attended the Kathina Ceremony hosted by Moitri Buddhist Society in Paris on 11th November 2024. About 300 devotees attended the celebrations.

Yangon, Myanmar

17th December 2024

One day conference at Buddhist University Yangon

Ven. Dr. Ottara Nyana gave a talk on Theravada Buddhism in Europe.

Czech Republic

Meditation Retreat

Ven. Dr. Nagasena conducted a meditation retreat for Mettarama Buddhist society in Brno, Czech Republic between 25th to 28th October 2024.

Renovation and maintenance work

3rd May 2024: Three batteries for solar panels installed as part of solar panel project donated by Dr. Khine Thin Han and Dr. Win Myint Aung.

10th – 15th June 2024: A major garden work by tidying up conifers in the grounds and trimming all the hedges of the Vihara.

27th – 28th June 2024: Installed four bollard lights at the entrance of the car park. Donated by Dr. Khine Thin Han and Dr. Win Myint Aung.

29th July 2024- 6th August 2024 : Car park renovation work at a total cost of £22,000.

3rd August - 6th August 2024 – Fire alarm upgraded to HMO level 3 in the Sangharama Vihara, the Sanghas' residence.

Fire safety certification, Gas safety certification and electrical safety certification were renewed.

Buddhist Community

We are grateful to our many supporters and volunteers for all their donations and help in particular:

- The sponsors for our ceremonies.
- Ashin Rahtapala for organising and coordinating the dana ceremonies for the devotees. Ashin Rahtapala acknowledged all dana towards the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara via social media platform with photos of events & blessings.
- Su Theingi Thant for preparing invitations for ceremonies and events at the Vihara. Theingi also looks after the paperwork for the Birmingham Buddhist Academy.
- Wunna Shtika for updating and maintaining the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara website.
- Dr. Win Myint Aung and Dr. Khine Thin Han donated towards the cost of installation of 4 bollard lights at the Pagoda entrance, installation of two more spotlights for the pagoda and installation of solar batteries.

Obituaries

– Andrew William Nichols (Karmadeva) (23rd September 1960 – 30th April 2024)

Andrew Nichols, one of Birmingham Buddhist Vihara's Trustees passed away suddenly on Tuesday 30th April 2024.

A Prayer service and water-libation ceremony was held at Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda on 3rd May 2024 in memory of Andrew Nicholls, trustee of Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust. It was conducted by Ven. Dr. Ottara Nyana and was attended by the immediate family.

Funeral service was held at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium on 21st May 2024.

-Ann Monica Lovelock (8th March 1941 - 4th October 2024)

Ann Lovelock was one of the original trustees when the Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust was first formed by the late Ven. Dr. Rewata Dhamma in 1981. She served as treasurer for a long period of time and managed the financial needs of the Vihara during the lean years when the Dhamma Talaka Pagoda and the Sangharama Vihara were being built. She also worked as a hospital pharmacist in Oxford, Sheffield and finally in Birmingham Heartlands Hospital where she became Principal Pharmacist.

A private funeral service was held in Hagley on 17th October 2024.

An interfaith memorial service was held on 3rd November 2024 at the Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda.

– Mrs. Ellen Parker @ Dhamma Jotika Kit Mon Parker (14th October 1952 - 13th March 2025)

Mrs. Ellen Parker was one of the most outstanding devotees of Birmingham Buddhist Vihara and most obedient disciples of the founder Ven. Dr. Rewata Dhamma. She was actively and selflessly involved in Religious Education at the Vihara for over 40 years.

First day memorial service for Mrs. Ellen Parker was arranged by Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust at the Sangharama Vihara on 14th March 2025.

Food Dana, sharing of merit and water-libation ceremony was held for Mrs. Ellen Parker on 20th March 2025. The seventh day memorial service was arranged by donors Dr. Khine Thin Han and Dr. Win Myint Aung. It was attended by Ellen's daughter and her family and friends and devotees of the Vihara.

Financial Report

The financial assets of the Trust are in a reasonable position.

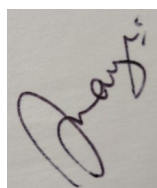
The cash funds bank balance stands at £513,799.00 on 31st March 2025 (£522,812 - 2024) for general expenses. There is £8296.11 in a deposit account {NatWest} which is our contingency fund.

The Birmingham Buddhist Academy functions as a charity subsidiary and has a balance of £ 29,057.00 as restricted funds.

No expenses or remunerations were made to any trustee or volunteer who all gave their time freely. No contracts were given to any company associated with any trustee.

Risk Assessment

The Trustees are aware of the need to consider the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. The Trustees continue to consider risks, their impact, an estimation of the likelihood of each risk, measures that must be taken to avoid exposure to the risk. These risks are reviewed on a regular basis. Our greatest risk is that we rely entirely on donations from devotees for our charitable work .

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Maung Kyi', is written on a light-colored background.

Signed: Dr. Maung Maung Kyi
Trustee.

29th January 2026



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	01/04/2024	To	31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and legacies	39,649	-	-	39,649	55,394
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	-	-	-	-	-
Investments	9,438	-	-	9,438	4,218
Separate material item of income	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Gift Aid	28,057	-	-	28,057	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	77,145	-	-	77,145	59,612
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	77,145	-	-	77,145	59,612
A3 Payments					
Raising funds / Events	5,622	-	-	5,622	3,296
Charitable activities - Monks expenses	3,199	-	-	3,199	254
Buddhist Academy expenses	-	1,104	-	1,104	1,500
Support and management costs	34,198	-	-	34,198	35,090
Donations	1,218	-	-	1,218	-
Publications	4,855	-	-	4,855	-
Crown Works Tree Services	7,500	-	-	7,500	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	56,592	1,104	-	57,695	40,141
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Car Park Surfacing	22,000	-	-	22,000	192,510
Residential Alarm Installation	6,462	-	-	6,462	-
Sub total	28,462	-	-	28,462	192,510
Total payments	85,054	1,104	-	86,157	232,651
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 7,909	- 1,104	-	- 9,013	- 173,039
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	492,651	30,161	-	522,812	695,851
Cash funds this year end	484,742	29,057	-	513,799	522,812

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank and in hand	484,742	29,057	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	484,742	29,057	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))


	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Freehold land & buildings	Unrestricted	1,081,877	-
	Motor vehicles	Unrestricted	8,300	-
	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Unrestricted	13,128	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Dr Maung Maung Kyi	13/01/2026



**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Birmingham Buddhist Vihara Trust

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31/03/2025

Charity no 513368

Set out on pages

1,2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

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

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

**Independent
examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date: 14/01/2026

Name:

Ahmet Dervish

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body:**

Institute of Financial Accountants
AFA MIPA

Address:

A Dervish & Co Limited,
496-498 Bearwood Road,
Bearwood, B66 4HB.