

KATHINA FESTIVAL

The History

The festival dates back to the time of the Buddha. It once happened, that a group of 30 Bhikkhus or Monks were on their way to Jetavana Vihar in Shravasti to spend their retreat season with their Great Master, the Lord Buddha. Vassa or the Rains Retreat began before they reached their destination. Because of their Vinaya Rules, they had to cease their travel and live peacefully together during the 3 month period of Vassa. At the end of the Vassa period they continued their journey. Knowing their sad state, the Buddha rewarded them for their harmonious, patient endurance by permitting them to wander freely, gather cloth, make a robe and offer it to a deserving monk among them as a show of goodwill, sharing and generosity. The frame used to spread the pieces of cloth on and stitch them together was called a Kathina.

The Present

Kathina, today, is celebrated as the largest alms giving festival of the Buddhist world, especially among the Theravada Buddhists. The tradition of collecting cloth by lay followers, offering to the Sangha in the 4 weeks that follows the end of Vassa, initiated by Lord Buddha, continues to this day.

CHITHURST BUDDHIST MONASTERY

Chithurst, Petersfield, Hampshire,
GU31 5EU

Tel: 01730 814986 www.cittaviveka.org

Driving Directions:

The monastery is located approximately 60 miles south of central London, off the main A3 from London to Portsmouth. Travelling south on the A3, turn off just before Petersfield, onto the A272 (Midhurst). Seven miles along A272, in the village of 'Trotton', there is a narrow bridge with traffic lights. After the bridge, take the first turn left, down the lane sign posted 'Chithurst'. The monastery entrance is about three quarters of a mile up the lane, on the left.

Trains:

London Waterloo to Petersfield (Portsmouth service) every 30 min.

Brighton/Worthing to Chichester - frequent service

Buses:

London Victoria coach station to Petersfield (National Express)

Petersfield to Midhurst (via Trotton), Bus NO. 92, Mon-Sat.

-the stop after Trotton church

Taxi fare from Petersfield station: ~ £15

CONTACTS

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KATHINA



Cittaviveka

22nd October 2017

Chithurst Buddhist
Monastery

FRIENDS & DEVOTEES

The Kathina day is of such importance to us that we call it the Sangha Day. The Sangha is our Refuge. It is a community of moral and virtuous beings, established by Lord Buddha, who while seeking their own liberation, guide us lay people by their example and teaching. The spiritual service of the monastic community to the lay community is acknowledged and celebrated in this festival.

During Rain Retreat (Vassa), the Sangha stay in one place, using the time to intensify their own practice, to review and discuss their training principles and to teach Dhamma to the lay community.

At the end of Vassa, the Kathina robe is offered by the lay community to the monastic community, who then formally agree which of them should receive it.

It is the only annual Buddhist ceremony that so celebrates the Sangha and our relationship to it. It is an opportunity for lay supporters to join in harmony, work together, and participate in the major alms giving ceremony of the Buddhist year. Also, it is practical: it is a chance to gather material support not only for the monks and nuns, but for the upkeep of the monastery that we can all visit, and through which we can hear and practise the Buddha's teachings. This is a precious oasis in a confused world and one that merits our gratitude.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE . .

The Kathina is being sponsored by Malie, Sriyani, Chandi and Dhammika this year.

You are most welcome to participate . . .

- By attending the meeting at the monastery at 1.30pm on the 24th September to discuss offerings.
- By offering your time during the weekend of 21st & 22nd October to help organise the Kathina Day
- By making offerings of food, flowers, decorations, others.
- By attending the Kathina Festival on Sunday the 22nd October.
- By providing or sponsoring an item/s from the 'list of useful items'.

"please inform Malie (on 07532278954) if you intend to offer an item to avoid duplication"

By making a financial contribution: financial donations are the most flexible way of offering support, especially if you are unable to attend. All such donations go into a general fund for upkeep of the monastery and the welfare of those living in it.

KATHINA PROGRAMME

- 10.00 Arrive
- 10.30 Refuges and Precepts
- 11.00 Rice Pindapath and Meal Offering
- 13.30 Offering of Kathina Cloth
- 14.30 Dhamma Talk
- 19.30 Evening Puja and Meditation

USEFUL ITEMS LIST

- Sellotape Dispensers
- "Henry" Vacuum Cleaners
- Light Cylinder Vacuum Cleaner eg.Miele C1
- Alarm Clocks
- A4 Copier Paper
- Rattan/Woven Matting for Conservatory
- Bedside Lights
- Plastic Boxes with Lids (max. size 40x50cm, & 30 cm high)
- Feather Duster
- Straw/Corn/Corn Fibre Broom
- Heavy duty Work/Gardening Gloves
- Sturdy Leather Gardening Gloves
- Dustpan and Brush
- White Paper Hanging Lanterns (large, medium, small)
- Pair of small Bluetooth Speakers
- Mattress Protectors
- A strong pair of Garden Shears
- Small Tea Pots and Tea Strainers
- Brown, Cotton Bedding Sets (single bed size)