

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester England UK

21 December 2025

Ketumati weblink<https://www.ketumati.org/>

Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma

Buddhist Door Global BDG

Buddhist Door Global BDG weblink<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/>

Authors weblink<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/authors/>

Author Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili Jacquetta Gomes

weblink<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/author/bodhicarini-upasika-jayasili-jacquetta-gomes/>

2025 28 July “Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma Thera: From Sri Lankan Forest to Civic Engagement in England” by Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili Jacquetta

weblink<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/features/ven-mahalova-ariyadhamma-thera-from-sri-lankan-forest-to-civic-engagement-in-england/>

25th Anniversary of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara 2025

25th anniversary of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara celebration was held on 3rd May 2025 in Manchester. .

weblink<https://www.ketumati.org/event/celebrating-25-years-of-ketumati-buddhist-vihara-and-aurudu-uthsawaya/>

BGKT Secretary Jacquetta Gomes Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili wrote a page for Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester’s 25th Anniversary Celebration booklet.

“Events, Precepts, Certificates, Badges and Sashes”, by Jacquetta Gomes Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada), *Commemorating 25 Years Ketumati Buddhist Vihara A legacy of Spiritual and Cultural Enrichment*, Published by Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester, May 2025, page 39.

Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa Head of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester appointed as the Chief Sangha Nayaka for England

Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa Head of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester has been appointed as the Chief Sangha Nayaka for England by the Karaka Sangha Sabha of the Siyamopali Maha Viharawansika Maha Nikaya, Malwatta Chapter Kandy Sri Lanka. A Felicitation Ceremony was held in Manchester on 10 December 2023. He has taught BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Keswick Buddhist Group (Theravada) since October 1999.

weblink<https://www.ketumati.org/event/celebration-ceremony-for-sangha-nayakanuprapthi-chief-sangha-nayaka-of-england-of-ven-pidiwille-piyatissa-nayaka-thero/>

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2024 15 April “Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Celebrates Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa Nayaka Thero’s Appointment as Chief Sangha Nayaka for England”, by Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili Jacquetta Gomes

weblink<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/features/ketumati-buddhist-vihara-celebrates-ven-pidiville-piyatissa-nayaka-theros-appointment-as-chief-sangha-nayaka-for-england/>

2025 10th Anniversary Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma Teaching BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Keswick Buddhist Group

Buddhist Monk Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma (who lives in a forest in Sri Lanka) visited Kendal on 11 March 2025 to celebrate 10 years of him teaching BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Keswick Buddhist Group (Theravada). In the morning, he met the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in the Mayors Parlour in Kendal Town Hall.

Kendal Town Council Facebook Page

weblink<https://www.facebook.com/kendaltowncouncil>

13 March 2025 The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were pleased to meet with Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma and members of the Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) in the Mayor's Parlour to help celebrate ten years of Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma teaching at Buddhist Group of Kendal and Keswick Buddhist Group.

weblink<https://www.facebook.com/kendaltowncouncil/posts/pfbid02s7pse6YM23FEDWagqBig5YE9gErVwFWkmC8HF4VLcYrmo9rvCiuWQ6HF4LFqW4Ynl>

weblink<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=959844246260704&set=a.266253088953160>

At lunchtime He visited the Unitarian Chapel Gardens. He has visited the Chapel before in 2017 and 2023. BGKT has met at the Unitarian Chapel since 1993.

Kendal Unitarian Chapel, *Connections*, 14 March 2025, Edition 150

"Unitarian Chapel Celebration 10 Year Visit by Sri Lankan Monk" by Jacquetta, page 3.

Kendal Unitarians weblink <https://kendalunitarians.com/>

weblink<https://kendalunitarians.com/connections/>

Events at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara

BGKT and Keswick Buddhist Group (Theravavda) attend celebrations and talks at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara. Ketumati Buddhist Vihara. Ketumati acquired a beautiful new Monastery in 2015 which has offered us opportunities to develop our Buddhist practice.

BGKT attended the monthly meditation retreats at Ketumati on the 1st Saturday of the month until 2020. BGKT secretary Jacquetta Gomes Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili taught metta [loving kindness] meditation. These retreats are now on the 1st Sunday and we attend on zoom. BGKT also attend the Wednesday evening 6pm meditation, study and discussion sessions.

Precepts, Certificates, Badges and Sashes

The unique aspect of the relationship between Ketumati and BGKT and the Keswick Buddhist Group has been in relation to the development of Precepts and Dhamma Teaching in the West. A decision was made that certificates signed by Venerable Piyatissa would be presented to those taking *Panca Sila* (The Five Precepts) and receiving a Buddhist name; and a certificate and a cream sash would be presented to those taking *Ajivatthamaka Sila* (Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth) for Life. These sashes must be worn when they administer the *Panca Sila* (The Five Precepts) if a Bhikkhu (Monk) or Bhikkhuni/Ayya (Nun) is not present. Dhamma Teachers Certificates and badges would be presented to Sangha Authorized Dhamma Teachers.

Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa was the Preceptor when *Upasaka* Sumedha and *Upasaka* Mahinda took the *Ajivatthamaka Sila* (Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth) for Life on 1 October 2000 in Kendal. (As far as we are aware this was the first time these Precepts have been taken for Life in the UK.) They were presented with Certificates for Observing the

Ajivatthamaka Sila (Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth) for Life, at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara's Katina celebrations in Oldham on 22 October 2000. The presentation was made by Venerable Medagama Vajiragnana Mahanayaka Thera, Aggamaha Saddhammajothika Dhaja, Vishvakeerthi Sri Sasana Sobhana Chief Sangha Nayaka of Great Britain and Head of the London Buddhist Vihara (1928-2006). This event and photographs of the ceremony were reported in the Sri Lankan press. Upasaka Mahinda spent a holiday in Sri Lanka and was recognised in Peradeniya Gardens, Kandy by a girl who had seen his photograph in the Sri Lankan press.

Venerable Piyatissa was the Preceptor when Upasaka Dhammika took the *Panca Sila* (Five Precepts) on 14 October 2001.

Upasaka Sumedha was the first member of BGKT presented with a Dhamma Teachers Certificate from Ketumati, and Upasaka Dhammika was presented with a Certificate for Observing the *Panca Sila* (Five Precepts), at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara's Katina celebrations in Oldham on 4 November 2001.

Upasaka Mahinda was the first second member of BGKT presented with a Dhamma Teachers certificate at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara's Katina celebrations in Oldham on 27 October 2002. The presentation was made by Venerable Kirindigalle Dhammaratana Maha Thera Chief Sangha Nayaka of Scandinavia and Head of the Stockholm Buddhist Vihara. Upasaka Punna was presented with a Certificate for Observing the *Ajivatthamaka Sila* (Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth) for Life at the same ceremony. Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa Maha Thera had been the Preceptor when he took the *Ajivatthamaka Sila* (Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth) for Life on 29 September 2002 in Kendal.

Venerable Piyatissa was the Preceptor when further Upasakas and Upasikas from BGKT and Keswick Buddhist Group took *Panca Sila* and *Ajivatthamaka Sila* in Kendal. They have received certificates and sashes. Venerable Piyatissa has also given more Dhamma Teachers certificates.

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester Vesak Celebrations 2006

At the 2006 Vesak celebrations at Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester, the Abbot, Venerable Piyatissa presented *Sangha Authorized Dhamma Teacher* badges to four lay teachers. Cream sashes were presented to *Upasakas* Sumedha, Mahinda and Punna who undertook the *Ajivatthamaka Sila* for Life with the Abbot himself as Preceptor, and to *Bodhicarini Upasika* Jayasili. These sashes are to be worn when they administer the *Panca Sila* (Five Precepts) should a Bhikkhu (Monk) or Ayya (Nun) not be available. (In June 2007 *Upasika* Panna received the Eight Lifetime Precepts (an expansion of the *Ajivatthamaka Sila*) from Bhante Henepola Gunaratana Maha Thera at Gaia House Devon, and a cream sash from Venerable Piyatissa.)

The 2006 Vesak celebrations included distribution of the booklet: *Requirements and Ceremonies for the Five Precepts (Panca Sila), The Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth (Ajivatthamaka Sila), Dhamma Teachers Certificate*, by Ketumati Buddhist Vihara and BGKT was also distributed at the Vesak celebrations. This was subsequently published for world-wide distribution, by the Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation, Taiwan, as part of the 2007 edition of *Introducing Buddhism*. It is available on this website.

Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa at Meetings in Kendal

Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa the Head of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester has taught BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Keswick Buddhist Group (Theravada) since his first visit to Kendal on 9 October 1999. He and other Monks have visited Kendal regularly since then. He has taught meditation retreats and Dhamma Study and meditation sessions.

2019 20th Anniversary Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa Teaching BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Keswick Buddhist Group

Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa (born in Sri Lanka) Head of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara Manchester, celebrated 20 years of teaching BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Keswick Buddhist Group.

He led a retreat for the 2 groups on Sunday 29th September at Kendal Fire Station. It is believed he is only the 3rd Buddhist Fire Chaplain in the world. (As far as we are aware, he led the first retreat led by a Buddhist Monk to take place in an operational Fire Station in the UK, at Kendal Fire Station in September 2011.)

The Mayor of Kendal Councillor Alvin Finch invited him and the 2 groups to the Mayors Parlour in Kendal Town Hall on Monday 30th September. The Mayor offered the Monk a dana lunch on behalf of the people of Kendal. Another guest of the Mayor was The Mayor of Dalton Councillor Nick Perie.

Kendal Town Council weblink<https://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/>
weblink<https://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/event/buddhist-group-of-kendal-parlour-meeting/>

Venerable Piyatissa presented the Mayor with a copy of his book *An Exposition of Buddhism*.

The Mayor presented Venerable Piyatissa with a copy of *Religion, Belief and Culture in our Community; Cumbrian Supplement* (2nd edition)

WIHWweblink<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/resources/>

weblink[https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cumbrian Supplement for the National Booklet-2009.pdf](https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Cumbrian_Supplement_for_the_National_Booklet-2009.pdf)

This was not Venerable Piyatissa's first visit to The Mayors Parlour. In March 2008, Councillor Gwen Murfin, Mayor of Kendal (2007- 2008), invited Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa to lead a celebration and Pali language Blessing Ceremony in the Mayor's Parlour in Kendal Town Hall.

Ketumati Other Resident and Visiting Bhikkhus [Monks] at Kendal

Other Monks living at and staying at Ketumati have also taught BGKT and Keswick Buddhist Group (Theravada). Highlights included:

2019 14 June

On Friday 14th June, well respected senior Buddhist Monk from Sri Lanka Venerable Siyabalapitiye Buddharakkhita Thero from Sri Buddharakkhita Bhikkhu Puhunu Dharmayathanaya [Monastery] in Anuradhapura Sri Lanka, and Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa, met attendees of BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal Theravada and Keswick Buddhist Group (Theravada) in Kendal. They were assisted by Venerable Kekundeniye Shanta from Sri Lanka.

2019 25 March

On Monday 25th March 2019 Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa, the Head of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Monastery] in Manchester, led a meditation retreat in Kendal. He was assisted by Venerable Dhammananda.

2019 21 March

On Thursday 21st March 2019 well respected senior Buddhist Monk from Sri Lanka Venerable Siyabalapitiye Buddharakkhita Thero from Sri Buddharakkhita Bhikkhu Puhunu Dharmayathanaya [Monastery] in Anuradhapura Sri Lanka gave a talk to BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal Theravada and Keswick Buddhist Group. He was assisted by Venerable Galpottayaye Pemananda and Venerable Dhammananda.

2018 28 January

Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma (who lives in a forest in Sri Lanka) led a meditation retreat for BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) at Fellside Centre in Kendal on 28th January 2018. Forest Monks are very highly venerated in Sri Lanka as they lead lives of renunciation, meditation, simplicity and purity.

2017 30 July

Ven Piyatissa and Venerable Mahalova Ariyadhamma (who lives in a forest in Sri Lanka) BGKT led a retreat for BGKT in Kendal on 30th July 2017.

2016 25 September

BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) celebrated the 25th anniversary of its founding in September 1991 at a retreat on 25th September at Fellside Centre Kendal led by Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa and Venerable Udunuwara Indarathana.

2015 22 February

Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa and Ven Mahalova Ariyadhamma (who lives in a forest in Sri Lanka) led a meditation and Buddhist Teaching meeting for BGKT at Fellside Centre on 22 February 2015.

2000 30 July

Venerable Medagama Vajiragnana Mahanayaka Thera, Aggamaha Saddhammajothika Dhaja, Vishvakeerthi Sri Sasana Sobhana Chief Sangha Nayaka of Great Britain and Head of the London Buddhist Vihara OBE (1928-2006), and Venerable Pidiville Piyatissa Maha Thera, led a meditation and Buddhist Teaching meeting for BGKT at Fellside Centre on 30 July 2000. This included a celebration of the 25th anniversary of BGKT Secretary Jacquetta Gomes becoming Upasika Jayasili, with Venerable Narada Maha Thera as the Preceptor in Sri Lanka, on 30 July 1975.

Bibliography

Books

Introducing Buddhism

Introducing Buddhism by Venerable Dr Balangoda Ananda Maitreya Mahanayaka Thera Abhidhaja Maharathaguru Aggamaha Pandita DLitt DLitt (1896-1998) and Jacquetta Gomes Bodhicarini Upasika Jayasili. *Introducing Buddhism* was originally published by The Buddhist Society London in 1988, to accompany The Buddhist Society's Introducing Buddhism Course, on which Jacquetta Gomes was one of the teachers. *Introducing Buddhism* has subsequently been published by Buddhist organisations in England, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the USA. *Introducing Buddhism* is available on several websites including Access to Insight and Google Books. *Introducing Buddhism* was launched by the BCC Buddhist Cultural Centre in Sri Lanka with 24 other books under the patronage of Venerable Dr K. Sri Dhammananda Chief Sangha Nayaka of Malaysia and Singapore, in December 1997.

Balangoda Ananda Maitreya, Venerable, and Jayasili (Jacquetta Gomes). *Introducing Buddhism*. 2007. (Taipei Taiwan, The Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation) (Book code EN074) (This includes the booklet: *Requirements and Ceremonies for the Five Precepts (Panca Sila)*, *The Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth (Ajivatthamaka Sila)*, *Dhamma Teachers Certificate*, issued by the Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Ketumati Buddhist Vihara at Wesak 2006)

Available on the Internet

Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation (Taiwan)

weblink<https://www.budaedu.org/> search for Introducing Buddhism or EN074

Google Books

weblink<https://books.google.com/> search for Introducing Buddhism Jacquetta Gomes

<http://books.google.com/books?printsec=frontcover&id=JC01AAKbtHYC#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Internet Archive

weblink<https://archive.org/>

Limited Preview some pages omitted

<https://archive.org/details/introducingbuddh02vene>

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Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Ketumati Buddhist Vihara. *Requirements and Ceremonies for the Five Precepts (Panca Sila), The Eight Precepts with Right Livelihood as the Eighth (Ajivatthamaka Sila), Dhamma Teachers Certificate*, issued by the Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada) and Ketumati Buddhist Vihara at Wesak 2006). 2006.

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February 2010 updated edition

Full text included

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<https://archive.org/details/requirementscere00unse>

Requirements and Ceremonies Appendix to *Introducing Buddhism*

Corporate Body of the Buddha Educational Foundation (Taiwan)

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Limited Preview some pages omitted

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Articles

"The development and use of the Eight Precepts for lay practitioners, Upasakas and Upasikas in Theravada Buddhism in the West", Jacquetta Gomes, *Contemporary Buddhism*, Volume 5(1) (May 2004) 47-63. (ISSN 1463-9947). DOI: [10.1080/1463994042000249535](https://doi.org/10.1080/1463994042000249535)

Available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/>

Several other articles have been written in Buddhist newsletters (including *Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter*) about the important relationship between Ketumati Buddhist Vihara and BGKT Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada).

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter

2009

"Regular Programmes and Services of the Temple: Monthly Programmes and Services" page 10;

"Vesak celebrations 2009, page 8.

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter, Volume 1 (Summer 2009)

2007

"News from the Buddhist Group of Kendal (Theravada)", By (Dhammika), page 4;

"Once again Bhikkhuni Kusuma visits Ketumati", page 12.

"Regular Programmes and Services of the Temple: Monthly Programmes and Services" page 11

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter, (Spring and Summer 2007)

“Kathina Celebration of Ketumati Buddhist Vihara” pages 6-7;

“Regular Programmes and Services of the Temple: Monthly Programmes and Services” page 8

“The Significance of the Maha Saropama Sutta ~ MN 29 (The Greater Discourse On the Simile of the Heartwood)” By (Upasaka Dhammika) page 5;

“Special rains retreat at Ketumati” page 3.

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter, Volume 2 (Autumn and Winter 2007)

2006

“A Brief History of the Buddhist Group of Kendal” by Upasaka Dhammika, page 2;

“Katina Celebrations 2006”, page 5;

“Regular Programmes and Services of the Temple: Monthly Programmes and Services” page 8

The Significance of the Vitakkasanthana Sutta (MN 20), (The Removal of Distracting Thoughts) By Upasaka Dhammika, page 7;

“Vesak Celebrations of Ketumati 2006” page 5.

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter, Volume 1 (2006)

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“Ketumati News and Editorial Note Summer/Autumn 2004” page 7.

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter, Volume 6 (No. 2 & 3) (Summer and Autumn 2004)

2002

“The Dhammapada - A Buddhist Bible”, by Titus Gomes pages 3-4;

“Ketumati News: Outside Activities” page 6

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter, Volume 4 (Nos 1 & 2) (Spring and Summer 2002)

2000

“Katina Ceremony - 2000” page 7;

“Editorial Notes: Outside Activities” page 10;

“Thoughts for the New Year”, pages 1-2

Ketumati Buddhist Vihara [Manchester] Newsletter, Volume 2 (Nos 3 & 4) (Autumn and Winter 2000)