



OXFORD BUDDHA VIHARA

Charity Reg. No. 1099361

Head of Vihara: Ven. Dr. K. Dhammasami

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Dear Friends in the Dharma,

As you know, for many years, Oxford has been at the forefront of the study of Buddhism. Historically, Oxford encouraged subjects associated with Buddhism: the first professorship in Sanskrit in Britain was established here in 1833. Since 2002 years the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies (www.ocbs.org) has been actively promoting the subject and organizing seminars, conferences and talks. The founder-abbot of the Oxford Buddha Vihara, Ven. Dr. Dhammasami, who graduated with a doctoral degree from Oxford University, is a trustee at this OCBS. About half of the PhDs in Britain in Buddhist studies are completed at Oxford. Recently Oxford established the first Professorship in Buddhist Studies in Oxford: this promises to maintain the study of Buddhism in Oxford well into the future. As an international centre, Oxford also has many visits from leading meditation teachers and there are a number of different Buddhist groups here, that include both Asian and Western practitioners. Oxford - perhaps like the ancient universities of India and Southeast Asia - has the potential to act as a meeting place for people from many different traditions, from all over the world. It could also act as a centre from which the international academic community can find out about the Buddhist tradition from experts in the field.

However, unlike their Mahayana counterparts, members of the Theravada Sangha find it harder than lay people to study at Oxford. But still, the Oxford Buddha Vihara at Cherwell Drive has been a great success in supporting scholar Sanghas studying in Oxford. We are now supporting 7 bhikkhus in 5 small bedrooms. We understand from Ven. Dr. Dhammasami that there are more scholar monks from various parts of Asia, wanting to come to the Oxford Buddha Vihara to study in Oxford.

Besides, The OBV wishes to extend the regular one-day meditation retreat now held on every second Sunday of the month by introducing a regular weekend-meditation retreat and also a longer, one-week or two-week, retreat. The current place is too small for these activities. It is too small even our regular sutta classes conducted on Tuesdays or the weekly meditation session on Fridays.

We, the trustees, have been, contemplating for sometime, of moving the Vihara to a suitable and larger property within Oxford, in accordance with Ven. Dr. Dhammasami's wishes. We have found a near ideal 10 bedroom property with two

spacious receptions on the southern outskirts of Oxford. It is in a decent residential area, close to a Park & Ride facility, and has parking space for up to 10 cars, a separate single garage and a reasonable sized back garden. Most importantly for the Sanghas, it is on the route of a good public transport system into the city centre and the university.

As we all know the economy and financial sector is in turmoil. The housing market is in a slump and prices are dropping, which is in our favor. The present asking price for the property mentioned is £800,000 and this is after a recent reduction of £25,000. It is a substantial increase compared to the value of the present OBV. To purchase the new property we need to find an extra £400,000 on top of selling the current OBV which is valued at £400,000. We also need to take into account the increase in the monthly expenses of running the OBV. In short, we need to make an extra effort to raise the money required to fulfill the aspirations of Venerable Dr. Khammai Dhammasami.

We are, therefore, looking for your generous support to make this venture a success and we have outlined below, four ways by which you can help:

1. Providing substantial interest-free loans which we hope to repay in 2-3 years.
2. Providing lump sum donations
3. Providing monthly standing orders or increasing existing ones
4. Donating £50 per square foot towards the purchase of the new property which is calculated to be 8,000 square feet.

We hope that you will be able to help the OBV and enclose the following;

1. A donation / gift form together with a Gift Aid declaration
2. A bank standing order form

We look forward to hearing from you soon and thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Monks, Trustees, Devotees & Supporters
The Oxford Buddha Vihara
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