



St. Margarets, Great Gaddesden, Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire HP1 3BZ  
England  
[www.amaravati.org](http://www.amaravati.org)

### **KATHINA 2014**

A Kathina Festival will be held at Amaravati Buddhist Monastery on Sunday, 2 November 2014. Kathina is a tradition that has been followed for over 2500 years. It takes place during the month following the end of the Vassa (the three months Rains Retreat). At the time of Kathina, lay followers make a special offering of the Kathina cloth and other requisites to the Sangha.

Kathina is a very happy, warm-hearted time of celebration. It is a time to come together, focusing on a single act of generosity of offering the cloth and other requisites.

As in previous years, it will be a Royal Kathina, with the Royal Kathina Robe being graciously offered by His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand through His Majesty's Representative.

This year Amaravati is also celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and in recognition of this Luang Por Sumedho (Phrarajasumedhajahn), its founder and spiritual teacher for many years, will be invited to offer a Dhamma Desana.

This year Luang Por Khemmadhammo (Phrabhavanaviteht, abbot of the Forest Hermitage, Warwickshire) has also been invited to attend this auspicious event.

#### **Programme**

09:45 Paritta Chanting

10:30 Pindapata – offering of almsfood to the Sangha

13:15 Kathina Ceremony – taking the Five Precepts, Paritta Chanting, offering of Kathina Robe and Cloth

Dhamma Desana – talk by Luang Por Sumedho

#### **Arrival, Dana/Offering Drop-off & Parking**

St. Margaret's Lane is likely to be congested, so we encourage you to drive slowly and come early (i.e. before 09:15) for an easy and untroubled arrival, and to participate in the Paritta Chanting, beginning at 09:45.

At the monastery gate there will be a reception tent with volunteers to welcome you to our celebration. On the right of the gate, you will find the drop-off area for food and other offerings that you have brought. **Please note that there are no facilities to cook or warm up the food, or to wash the food containers.** If you wish to find them easily afterwards, please clearly mark

them with the labels provided, and take them home for washing. After dropping off your offerings, you will then be directed to the main field for parking.

**Please note that all vehicles are to be parked in the main field.** Special arrangements are being made for visitors with a disability. Please inform the volunteers at the reception tent if you need special access.

### **Having Arrived**

All visitors will be ushered from their cars down the walkway between Ajahn Amaro's kuti and the Retreat Centre to the main ceremonial area.

In addition to the Sala, the Retreat Centre's two lounges are available as additional dining areas for the meal.

**A map of the site is available on arrival and on the Amaravati web-site (for download).**

### **Donating, Offering, & Volunteering**

If you would like to make a donation by cheque, please make it payable to: 'The English Sangha Trust Ltd' (*please write at the back of the cheque 'Kathina 2014' as well*) and send it to:

Kathina 2014  
Amaravati Buddhist Monastery  
St. Margarets, Great Gaddesden  
Hemel Hempstead  
Hertfordshire HP1 3BZ

If you are a UK tax payer, you might also consider completing the Gift Aid form enclosed in this package, there is a Gift Aid form for your convenience.

If you would like to consider making a regular donation (which helps the EST greatly), a Standing Order form is also enclosed to enable you to set this up. Please send it the address above, too.

This year's information leaflet from the English Sangha Trustees is also enclosed for your information.

If you would like to ask about the offering of any particularly useful items, please see the Kathina List enclosed. For any enquiry about this, please contact Khun Maew on 07879 653253.

The lay Kathina organising committee is also seeking volunteers to help out during Kathina day, if you are interested, please contact Sharron Chan on 07825 013110 or email [sharron.chansc@gmail.com](mailto:sharron.chansc@gmail.com)

We hope you are able to join us for Kathina and that it will be a joyful day for us all.

Yours in the Dhamma,

Sponsors for Amaravati Kathina 2014