



Supporting the Amaravati Sangha.  
Information for lay supporters from  
The English Sangha Trust

## ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS 2022-3

**Amaravati Buddhist Monastery**  
Great Gaddesden  
Hemel Hempstead  
Herts HP1 3BZ UK

**Monastery: +44 (0)1442 842455**  
EST: Tel: +44 (0)1442 927018

**The English Sangha Trust Ltd.**  
Charity No: 231310  
Company No: 565499

Friends, greetings.

This leaflet updates supporters on behalf of the Amaravati community, about the activities and finances of The English Sangha Trust between April 2022-March 2023. The aims for this year, 2023-24, are also included.

On a wintery day in December 2022, the sisters were formally offered the accommodation buildings that they and many others had worked to create. The nuns are now living in them and the gardens are growing, like the community itself.



The purpose of Monastery buildings, like all requisites, is to provide shelter and seclusion in support of the holy life. Creating buildings, with the noise and disruption that entails, is a practice in itself, and for some a joyful one.

Whilst construction goes on, Wesak, Kathina and other gladdening annual opportunities for gathering and making offerings to the community, continue as they have done for centuries.

Here, Ajahn Amaro receives rice whilst on the Wesak 2023 pindapat.



Yes, the new Sala, kitchen, storage and sangha eating spaces are under construction. Completion is expected at the end of 2024.

The picture above is of the foundations for the three main buildings that are joined together. They are wide but low, so we can all fit in and the temple will still be the tallest building. The clay ground requires these concrete foundations and piles and rebar (sticking up through the concrete), so the building will be there for many years to come, well future-proofed for changing weather patterns.



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The word 'Amaravati' translates as The Deathless Realm, where self-view passes away and the unconditioned is realised.

On the mundane level, Amaravati now has its own 2.5 ton electricity sub-station and signage. All the buildings get new cables and we are reducing the amount of gas used.





Currently the EST, through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Amaravati Developments, is making the very first steps towards the rebuilding of the Bhikkhu Vihara. As well as rooms for male sangha of all ages and physical abilities, it will include accommodation for male lay guests and Long Term Lay Residents. The design will allow the monks' community to have more privacy than it currently has and a community feel with rooms arranged around an internal cloister.

The bhikkhus are just starting to think about the design, and will then appoint a new architect and the other design team members.

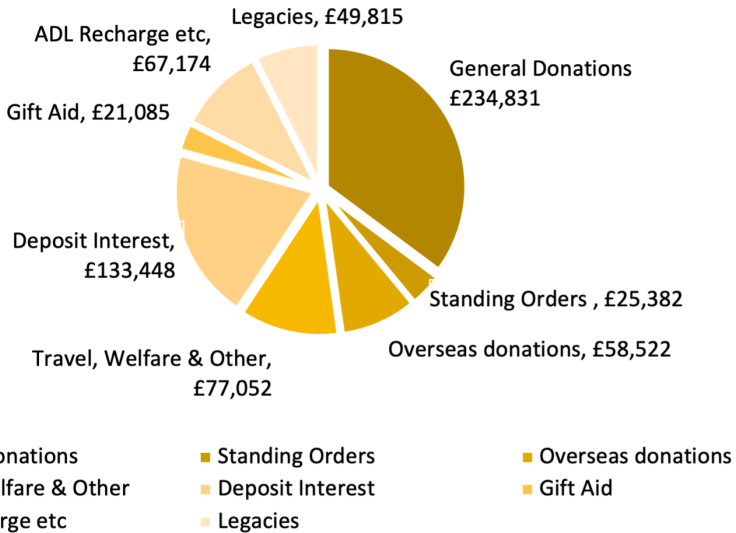
Blessed with a substantial male community, this Vihara is clearly going to be large, and the EST does not have all the funds likely to be required. We will be providing regular information for supporters about the project, including its funding, and the website and Monastery boards will be updated with information as the project unfolds. The Trust likes to keep to the traditional standard of not contracting for anything for which it does not have all the funds in place, and we would very much like to avoid taking out a bank loan as we know it is not the most efficient use of supporters' donations. The Trust aims to build accommodation for the monks to the same standard as has been built for the nuns. If this can be achieved, the sangha will have eco-friendly passive house buildings that are simple to maintain and will last for generations.

Another growing topic is Ageing Samanas initiatives. (Samanas are Theravadan nuns, and monks). The EST has appointed an investment company to manage Ethical Investments. It is hoped this will see a Samana Care Fund build up that will support care for elderly monks and nuns, especially those with higher care needs. From September 2023, the Trust has appointed a volunteer Sangha Welfare Coordinator who is a retired social worker, to help with liaison with health, social care and related agencies.

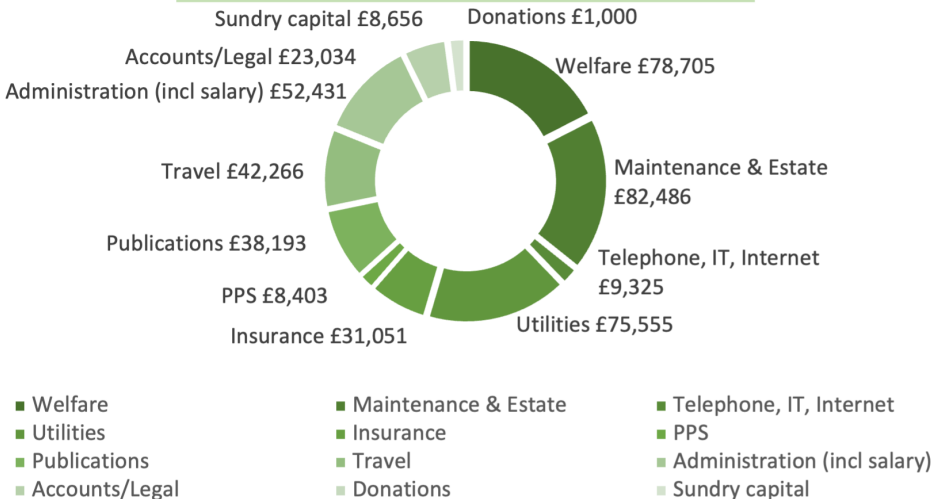
Last but not least, the community, through the maintenance volunteers, is inspecting the buildings that are not being replaced in the foreseeable future, with a view to improving insulation, especially in preparation for the reopening of the Retreat Centre for larger retreats in 2025.

More information on any topic addressed in this leaflet is available from The Trust Secretary, Caroline Leinster. Email [est@amaravati.org](mailto:est@amaravati.org), or phone +44 (0) 1442 927018.

**Amaravati General Income 2022-23, £667,309**  
 excl. £760,738 Restricted for Buildings, Publications and Welfare



**Amaravati General Spending 2022-23, £451,105**  
 excluding £2,623,937 on buildings, & stupa design



## Supporting the Monastery

As lay people we support the monastery best by practicing. Many people find that volunteering helps, and to volunteer you can contact the Monastery, or the Lotus Volunteer Group at [lvgenquiry@gmail.com](mailto:lvgenquiry@gmail.com). They have opportunities, particularly for people who cannot visit often.

Offering food for the sangha, often in memory of a loved one, is a traditional and often joyful way to connect to the Dhamma and Monastery. You can bring food on the day, or offer money for, say, an anniversary.

Both women and men are welcome to stay as guests by applying via the [www.amaravati.org](http://www.amaravati.org) website. This opens up other ways of helping. People staying for the time are generally offered three nights, depending on how far they have travelled.

Some people like to offer money monthly by Standing Order, or taking the long-view, by leaving something to the Trust in their Will.

### Financial Support in 2022-23

The figures on the reverse show that in 2022-23, Amaravati received £667,309 in donations that the trustees could allocate to any need, and another £760,738 was donated and Restricted for Buildings, Publications and Welfare.

The Trust spent, in 2022-23, a total of £451,105 on the general running costs of the Monastery, and £2,623,937, on buildings including the Nuns' Accommodation and the Sala.

One of the largest expenses is utilities, which covers electricity, gas, water and heating oil.

Another significant cost area is Maintenance and Estate, as Amaravati is a big site with over 20 buildings and includes the stupa field, memorial garden and Eastern field.

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