**Buddhist practice and liturgy in the UK: challenges and opportunities**

All are welcome to the conference/workshop run by UK Association for Buddhist Studies, to bring scholars and practitioners of different traditions together in exploring themes of shared interest.

10am to 5pm, Saturday May 20th at the Samatha Trust’s Manchester Centre for Buddhist Meditation, 19–21 High Lane, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 9DJ. See here for a map: <https://www.samatha.org/what-we-offer/classes/manchester>

10.00 Registration

10.15 Welcome, Peter Harvey

10.30–11.15: Cathy Cantwell, UKABS President (<http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/staff/isa/ccantwell.html>), will talk on practising Tibetan liturgies in the UK.

11.15–12.00: Ratnaguna Dharmachari, of Triratna’s Manchester Buddhist Centre, and author of *The Art of Reflection* and *Great Faith, Great Wisdom: Practice and awakening in the Pure Land sutras of Mahayana Buddhism*(<http://www.windhorsepublications.com/product-category/authors/ratnaguna/>), will talk on the performative aspects of certain sutras and suttas, and how this might be relevant to translating these texts.

12.00-12.15: tea/coffee  
  
12.15-1.00:

   Workshop 1: The languages of British Buddhist groups: issues around the uses of Asian languages and/or English in chanting, and the style of language used in expressing Buddhist ideas and practices – how ‘religious’ is it? How do Buddhist groups relate to the boom in secular mindfulness?  
   Workshop 2: What range of activities are British Buddhist groups involved in? What can they learn from each other, and are there areas of scholarly research that would help practitioners in some aspects of this range of activities?

 1.00–1.45: Lunch

1.45–2.15: Tour of the building and introduction to the new Library and the scholarly collection bequeathed by Lance Cousins, influential scholar of Pali Buddhism.

 2.15–3.00: Samatha Trust’s Keith Munnings, Chair of Buddhist Healthcare Chaplaincy Group and Network of Buddhist Organisations’ chaplaincy officer (<https://bhcg.wordpress.com/buddhist-chaplains-and-the-nhs/> ), will talk on issues relating to Buddhist Chaplaincy.

 3.00-3.45:

   Workshop 3: How do Buddhist groups deal with illness, death, and personal difficulties of both members and those who come to them for help?  
   Workshop 4: How might Buddhist groups’ best preserve and develop their distinctive lineage(s)?

 3.45-4.00: tea/coffee

4.00-5.00: Workshops report back, and panel discussion.

The cost of the conference is £15 waged (£10 unwaged) and includes lunch. If you would like to reserve a place, email Caroline Starkey [ukabsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:ukabsmembership@gmail.com).

Chorlton can be reached from central Manchester by Metro: <http://www.metrolink.co.uk/stationinfo/Documents/Route_Map.pdf> - lines F, G and H.  A map of Chorlton showing the Metro station is here: <http://www.metrolink.co.uk/stationinfo/Documents/13-0767%20Chorlton%20local%20area%20map.pdf>

Coming from Barlow Moor Road up High Lane, the Samatha Centre is around a hundred yards on the left.

See <http://ukabs.org.uk/> – ‘current conferences’ for any programme updates.