



CDPP PROGRAMME FRAMEWORK

The Buddha envisaged a path that led directly to its culmination in a deeply 'embodied' understanding of the Four Ennobling Truths (*ariya sacca*) and the freedom entailed in such a realisation. Such a path addressed every dimension of a human being's existence by pulling together the various facets of their personality - emotions, intellect, reason, passion and energy - and directed them at the consummation of the goal.

The Committed Dharma Practitioners Programme is an integrated approach to the study and practice of the Dharma that is rooted in the Buddha's teaching of the path to liberation. The opportunity to, 1) study the texts (*pariyatti*), 2) develop and cultivate our experiential understanding of the teaching (*patipatti*) and investigate how they apply to our meditation practice and daily life and 3) understand what is meant by realisation (*pativedha*), will orient the programme.

The CDPP Programme offers a number of different, yet interwoven strands within its framework – teaching, discussion, community, reflection and investigations applied in our daily lives. All participants will have previous experience with dharma practice and a working knowledge of core Buddhist concepts. The programme is an opportunity for students to learn and practice together. One of the intentions of this two-year programme is to encourage participants to embed the teaching in every area of their lives.

MODULES

The modules held in the beautiful setting of Sharpham House will offer an in-depth exploration of the teachings of the Buddha. These modules will include sustained blocks of teachings and discussion. There will be times for questions and several sittings each day are scheduled. There will be periods of silence during two of the meals each day. Modules will begin with dinner on the first evening and end with lunch on the final day. The modules at Sharpham offer plenty of opportunity for the programme participants to interact and are intended to foster community as well as peer relationships.

RETREATS

Retreats will be held at Gaia House and will have a study practice format. They will be held in silence apart from the teaching sessions in the meditation hall.

MENTOR

Each participant will be assigned a mentor unless you already have a mentoring relationship you would prefer to continue with. It is encouraged to have a monthly contact with your mentor, focussing on the current course material and its practical application. We anticipate these check-ins to be half an hour in length and it is important to keep the arranged dates.

The mentors will have access to the course book, and the sessions needn't be face to face. The conversations between mentor and student are to be held in confidence by both parties unless there is agreement or need to share the discussion with others. It is the responsibility

of the student to arrange the mentoring sessions, and the mentoring relationship is a dana relationship; your mentor does not receive any payment and may well be living on dana.

CONTINUING INVESTIGATIONS

There will be a regular assignment of dharma themes to investigate and apply in the periods between modules. Selected reading will be encouraged, but the most significant step is to reflect upon the reading and explore and apply it in your own life.

COMMITMENT

The programme involves a considerable investment of time and finance. Please ensure you are in a position in your life to begin and sustain the entire course. Since it is a closed programme, it has been budgeted based on all rooms being occupied for the duration. We will therefore not be in a position to offer refunds for any non-attendance, and participation is expected except in cases of health or family emergency.

Each participant will find their own ways of learning within the framework of the programme but it is important to bring to these two years a clear sense of commitment. The greatest benefits are gained through engaging with the reading material and exploring the continuing investigation themes in your life. A monthly contact with your mentor will enable you to explore questions and reflections that arise.

DANA

The programme teachers do not receive any compensation from the course fee, which covers the venue costs (on a full cost recovery basis), the course administration and teacher travel expenses. It has been decided to offer this programme in the same spirit of dana that supports retreat teachers at Gaia House and other major centres. The teachings are considered priceless and the teachers treasure dana or generosity as the heart and foundation of the path of awakening. There will be the opportunity to offer dana to the teachers at the end of each module and retreat.

ACCOMMODATION

There are only two single rooms at Sharpham and very few at Gaia House, and these will be reserved for people with the greatest medical needs. Participants must therefore expect to share a room. There are a limited number of non-residential places available at a reduced rate. If you wish to apply for one of these, please specify in the email at the point of application, rather than on the application form itself. Otherwise, it will be assumed that you have applied for a residential place.

FEES

The entire programme is £2040, including the 2 Gaia House retreats. Dana contributions for teachers are not included in this cost. The fee can be paid in instalments, and the deposit is £500.

BURSARIES:

For the first time this year, a very small number of bursary assisted places are available to support those of most limited means. To apply, you must complete a statement as detailed on the application form, and submit alongside your application no later than the end of October 2012.

CURRICULUM AND DATES

2013

M1 May 3 – 8 John Peacock and Akincano	Indian Background Eightfold Path / 3 Characteristics
M2 June 28- July 3 John Peacock and Christina Feldman	Meditation Lineages Brahma Viharas Samadhi / jhanas
R1 August 11 – 18 Gaia House John Peacock and Christina Feldman	Dependent Origination / Emptiness
M3 October 25 – 30 Akincano And John Peacock	Sila/Ethics Vinaya and its origins / monastic practice Right View / Wisdom

2014

M4 January 15– 19, Akincano and Stephen Batchelor	Indian Civilisation The Life of the Buddha Textual Sources / Transmissions
M5 February 28- March 5 John Peacock and Christina Feldman	Paramita Karma 7 Factors of Awakening
R2 May 30 – June 6 Gaia House: John Peacock, Christian Feldman and Akincano	Satipatthana Sutta
M6 August 22 - 27 John Peacock Christina Feldman And Akincano	Nibbana Bodhicitta



GAIA HOUSE



THE
Sharpham