

Expressions of Commitment and Ordinations at Bristol Zen Dojo

Taking Refuge:

This is an informal ceremony, held at BZD and designed by our Mentor, Guy Mokuho Mercier, based on the traditional Buddhist taking refuge ceremony. It represents an inner commitment to practice and follow the path.

There is currently no date set for this. We plan to hold one when COVID has sufficiently reduced to allow more people to attend the dojo. We hope that Jan Pearse will also be able to visit, and lead the ceremony alongside Adrian and Chris.

Precepts (Ju Kai) / Bodhisattva Ordination:

The receiving of the Bodhisattva vows and precepts is a commitment to ongoing practice, for the benefit not only of oneself but for all beings. It is a more formal ceremony, designed for lay people who wish to express a public and ongoing commitment to this tradition. It is administered by a 'Kyoshi' - a teacher formally recognised by Japan. The next such ordination will be at the Sheringham Sesshin, Feb 2022, with Guy Mokuho Mercier. The Sheringham Sesshin in Nov 2021, led by Jan Pearse, will provide teachings and workshops to support people wishing to make this commitment, and BZD and other groups will provide teaching, discussion and training to support this.

If you are interested in receiving this, then please talk to one of the UK senior practitioners (Adrian, Chis, Jan, Maddie or others). You will need to send a formal letter of request to Guy Mercier. You will also need a rakusu - Ideally sewn by yourself, but not necessarily. This is something we can speak about.

Tokudo (Nun/Monk) Ordination:

The Tokudo ordination is a commitment to an ongoing relationship with a teacher (who one adopts as one's Master) for guidance, as well as a wider commitment to support the community of practice. Again, it is bestowed by a Kyoshi such as Guy.