

Than Ajahn Jayanto

Theravada – Thai

Born in Boston in 1967, Than Ajahn Jayanto grew up in Newton and attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison, during which time a period of world travel kindled a great interest in the spiritual life. A meditation class at the Cambridge Insight Meditation Center led him to live for a while at the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, Massachusetts, where he made plans to join the monastic community of Ajahn Sumedho as a postulant at Amaravati Monastery in England in 1989. Taking bhikkhu (monk) ordination at the related Cittaviveka Monastery in 1991, he trained there and at Aruna Ratanagiri Monastery until 1997, at which point he embarked on a period of practice in Thailand and other Asian Buddhist countries. He returned to the UK in 2006, where he lived at Amaravati until moving to Temple in 2014. Since 2009 Than Ajahn Jayanto has helped to lead the efforts to establish a branch monastery in New England.

Temple Forest Monastery ('Jetavana') was established in 2014 in the town of Temple, New Hampshire, about one-and-a-half hours north-west of Boston. It includes a number of old farm buildings, fields, and a large forest which will house kutis (huts) for the monks which borders a National Wildlife Refuge. Primarily a place for monks to live, train, and enter the Sangha, the monastery is also open to day-visitors for regular meditations and the daily meal offerings, and, for much of the year, to overnight guests who wish to practice by following the monastic routine alongside the monks.

Than Ajahn Jayanto now serves as abbot of Temple Forest Monastery.