

Andy Wistreich

Andy was born in England in 1950. Now retired from paid employment, he spent most of his career as a teacher in further education in England. He gained a masters degree in education in 2000 and went on to work for the UK higher and further education funding councils providing support services for the educational use of the Internet. Married to Shan Tate in 1981, he is father to four boys, now all adults. In 1980 he began to practise Buddhism, taking refuge, lay vows and bodhisattva vows with Geshe Jampa Tekchog.

During the eighties, Andy was spiritual programme coordinator at Manjushri London Centre (now Jamyang), taking teachings from Geshe Wangchen, Lama Yeshe, Lama Zopa Rinpoche and others. He began to teach Buddhism and lead short retreats at the centre in 1982. He took a series of empowerments and undertook some short solitary retreats during that period. After moving to Somerset, England in 1989, Andy continued teaching on Bodhicaryavatara, Gom Rim, Lo Rig, Samatha, Introduction to Tantra and Discovering Buddhism modules at Jamyang Leeds.

Having first taken the Kalacakra Empowerment in Madison, Wisconsin, USA in 1981, Andy developed an ongoing enthusiasm for study and practice of Kalacakra, with a strong wish to support Kalacakra practitioners with materials, teachings, retreats etc. In 1998 he and David Reigle set up the International Kalacakra Network for that purpose, and the network has become a major source of information, and support for practice by means of the internet.

Since retiring in July 2007, Andy has undertaken a year of retreats in two FPMT retreat centres.

Having now emerged from those retreats he plans to dedicate the rest of his life to studying, practising and teaching the Dharma. He is available to teach a wide range of texts and topics from sutra and tantra, as well as to lead retreats.