Objectives for week 6:

- Appreciation of Sangharakshita, the poet (as distinct from Sangharakshita the monk)
- Communication of the Dharma through the poetic language of symbols, images, & metaphor
The Place of Imagination, Beauty, and Ritual in the Spiritual Life (Handout 6.1)

Week six

The Dharma in Poetry
Selection of poems by Sangharakshita, from Complete Poems 1941 – 1994

1. Advent p57
2. The Unseen Flower p95
3. The Root Speaks p125
4. ‘I want to break out …’ p264
5. The Time Has Come … p283
6. Life is King p285
7. Four Gifts p299

Questions for Week Six

The suggestion is to read through the poems twice, ideally aloud. You might like to try reading one or more before meditating, and noticing the effect they have on you.

1. What is the poem trying to communicate?

2. What is your response?

3. Do you think poetry is able to communicate the mystery of Enlightenment, Compassion, the Truth more effectively than prose? How does it do this?

4. What qualities do you perceive in Sangharakshita through his poetry?
The Dharma in Poetry

Optional further reading for week 6:

1. On the five aspects of the poet’s experience of life, `Advice to a Young Poet’, pp126-140, The Religion of Art Sangharakshita
2. On Sangharakshita I and Sangharakshita II, p436-437, The Rainbow Road Sangharakshita
3. On the Dharma in Western Poetry, p471, Facing Mount Kanchenjunga Sangharakshita
4. On the arising of the poetic state, p173-174, Travel Letters Sangharakshita
5. `The Veil of Stars’, p417, Complete Poems Sangharakshita + Introduction to `The Veil of Stars’, Lama Govinda, p495, Complete Poems