

Karen Buddhists



While Karen people traditionally practise Animism (spirit worship) most Karen people have also practised Buddhism for hundreds of years.

A Buddhist monastery is the centre of community life in most Karen villages, and may also be the village school.

As well as being religious teachers and leaders, Buddhist monks and nuns may have roles as community leaders, teachers, traditional herbal doctors, counsellors, and look after orphaned children.

Photo: Karen children in Australia ordain as temporary novice monks