



On the 16th March, the Scottish first minister announced a proposed time line for the easing of lockdown restrictions. Under this plan it is realistic that we will be able to resume residential retreats and solitary retreats from Friday 30th April. This date is still provisional, and it will be a cautious re-opening with limited numbers, full physical distancing, and enhanced cleaning and infection control measures similar to the ones we had in place in the autumn. Also, at this time we do not have confirmation that travel will be permitted between Scotland and the rest of the UK although there are signs that it may well be.

Limited number re-opening does mean that we will only be accepting one booking per person to maximise access to retreats for as many people as we can, and we will be asking for a higher level of suggested donation to help reduce our financial losses during the reopening period. However, we are very aware that many people have suffered financial hardship and I would like to emphasise that our retreats are still being offered on a donations basis, so if you cannot afford the higher suggested donations you just as welcome as always to come on retreat.

Although there is an outline of intended movement down through the Scottish tier system there is not yet a clear indication as to when physical distancing will be eased, so for the time being we are still only accepting 10 bookings per retreat. It is expected that at some point physical distancing guidance will be eased and we will be able to open out bookings to more people. When it does, we will start by working through waiting lists, so if there is a retreat you are interested in later in the year which is currently full, do feel free to contact the office and add yourself to the waiting list.

The pandemic is far from over, so please continue to take care, and follow the rules. We will only re-open when we are satisfied it is responsible to do so and will take every care to make Dhanakosa as COVID-safe as we can. But we are looking forward to being able to welcome guests again, and with as few barriers to attendance as we can safely achieve.

Finally, I would just like to thank everyone who has supported us financially over the last year. Your contributions have made a real difference to our ability to weather the pandemic and confidently come out the other side. And, thank you to everyone who has participated in the on-line programme of events and retreats which we have very much enjoyed sharing with you. Check out our web site for on-line events still scheduled for April, and we hope to continue some on-line presence ongoingly after the pandemic so if on-line participation works for you keep an eye on that too.

We look forward to seeing you here again soon, and in the meantime stay well.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nayaka". The script is cursive and fluid.

Nayaka
Centre Director