



The COVID road has been long and looks far from over, but we are running retreats again. It's a huge amount of work keeping retreats COVID-safe but the feedback from retreatants has been really positive and given us much confidence in our work. I have also been really impressed with the diligence and care being taken by our team in their work, and their commitment to providing the precious opportunity of being on retreat despite the additional workload and the many difficulties and uncertainties we are all having to work with. We are of course watching the situation carefully so we can keep up with revised guidance, local lockdowns and shifts in government policy.

But the big news is the 2021 programme. This is now on our web site and will be available for general bookings from October 15th. With so many people having had retreats cancelled this year we are giving a week long window of opportunity to people with pending transfers to book in advance of this date. So, if that's you please check the listings on the web site and then phone the office. General bookings will open on the 15th October. We are initially only opening each retreat to 10 bookings, which is our COVID-safe physical distancing number. Hopefully at some point next year these restrictions will be lifted. At such time we will open out bookings so if the retreat you are interested in is already full do still add your name to the waiting list. Our COVID extended cancellations policy will of course continue to remain in place for anyone affected by a local lockdown, changes in national restrictions, and COVID related illness and self-isolation.

Dhanakosa's economic model is built on maximising numbers on retreat. Retreats with 10 people are no less work for us, cost the same to run, and bring in less than half the income. We will be working hard to make savings on cost's but it won't be enough. Unfortunately, this means that at the very time that many people are suffering economic hardship we are having to increase our suggested donations to reflect this reduction in numbers. So next year we are asking for donations of £600 for a week's retreat, or £400 if you are unwaged. We do recognise the challenges facing people, and are committed to retaining the Dana economy, so it's still a suggested donation not a fee. But if you can, please do take the increase in ask seriously. It feels only reasonable to try to reflect the increase in cost per person in the suggested donation. Even at these levels we will still be subsidising retreats from our remaining reserves. Suggested donations will then be revised down as we are able to open out to more people on retreat again.

I would again just like to finish by thanking everyone for their continued support and encouragement. Our hearts go out to all those affected both directly and indirectly by this situation. The full human cost extends so much beyond loss of life and is deep and difficult to count.

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

Nayaka
Centre Director