

**iLead**

A FOUR-WEEK COURSE FOR THINKING PEOPLE

# ISLAM **FOR** CRITICAL



SPRING 2025

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# WELCOME

Assalamu Alaikum, and a warm welcome to all of you embarking on this transformative journey with Islam for Critical Thinkers.

This course is designed for those who seek to bridge the timeless wisdom of Islam with the complexities of modern life. Over the next four weeks, you will develop practical critical thinking skills rooted in Islamic principles, empowering you to navigate contemporary challenges with confidence and clarity.

Whether you are a student, a professional, a community leader, or a lifelong learner, this course offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of Islam's intellectual tradition. Through a blend of immersive retreats, expert-led webinars, and self-paced online modules, you will explore Quranic foundations, traditional frameworks, and modern methodologies to approach faith with both reason and authenticity.

This is not just a course—it is an invitation to cultivate a more thoughtful, intentional, and spiritually grounded way of living. Through a 3-day immersive retreat, expert-led webinars, and interactive online modules, you will connect with like-minded individuals, learn from prominent scholars, and build a network of critical thinkers who share your commitment to intellectual and spiritual growth.

We are thrilled to have you here, and we look forward to supporting you on this journey. Let's begin this transformative experience with open minds and hearts, ready to learn, reflect, and grow.

Welcome to Islam for Critical Thinkers. Let's embark on this journey together.

Wa Alaikum Assalam.

*The Critical Thinkers Team*

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the Islam for Critical Thinkers course, you will walk away with tangible skills and insights that will enrich both your personal and professional life. Specifically, you will:

1. Apply Quranic principles of critical reasoning to address personal and professional challenges, ensuring your decisions are aligned with Islamic values.
2. Navigate diverse scholarly opinions on contemporary issues with confidence, understanding the nuances of differing viewpoints.
3. Evaluate information sources within the Islamic tradition with discernment, distinguishing between reliable and questionable knowledge.
4. Develop structured approaches to problem-solving using Islamic frameworks such as Usul al-Fiqh, Maqasid al-Shariah, and Qawaid al-Fiqhiyyah.
5. Research and verify Islamic guidance on modern matters, equipping yourself to address new and complex questions.
6. Apply fundamental principles of Islamic law to contemporary contexts, balancing tradition with modern realities.
7. Engage respectfully with differing viewpoints while maintaining authenticity, fostering constructive dialogue within your communities.
8. Make evidence-based decisions that honor both religious principles and the demands of modern life.





# YOUR CRITICAL THINKING EXPERIENCE

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Our exclusive four-week programme is designed to nurture your spiritual growth in a supportive, immersive environment. Here's what you will experience:

## **3-Day Immersive Retreat**

Kickstart your journey with a rejuvenating weekend of critical thinking among like-minded individuals. Connect with mentors, participate in workshops, and build relationships that will support your learning journey.

## **4 Expert-led webinars**

Learn from the stories of classical and contemporary critical thinkers. Apply lessons to your own journey of becoming a critical thinker. Each session includes live Q&A with prominent scholars and thought leaders.

## **4-Week online learning modules**

Access self-paced modules anytime, anywhere. Benefit from personalized tutor feedback to enhance your learning. Apply critical thinking frameworks to case studies relevant to your life and work.

## **Private Discussion Forum**

Connect with fellow participants in a safe, private space. Discuss common concerns and support each other's personal growth.



# TRAINERS BIOGRAPHIES



## **SHAYKH NURUDEEN LEMU**

Nurudeen Lemu is the Director of Research and Training at the Da'wah Institute of Nigeria, Islamic Education Trust in Nigeria. He develops, facilitates and conducts train-the-trainer courses in enhancing inter-faith dialogue and engagement, intra-faith cooperation, building resilience against various forms of religious extremism among Muslims, and promoting faith-based critical thinking (*'Shari'ah Intelligence'*). Nurudeen is a director of several organisations including Lotus Capital (Halal Investments) Limited, the Development Initiative of West Africa, the Almajiri Child Rights Initiative and ICICE-Al-Noor Academy. He is also a co-founder of the Inter-Faith Activity and Partnership for Peace, and the Regional Centre of Expertise, Minna which focuses on education for sustainable development.



## **HAFIZ NAVEED IDRIS**

Based in West Yorkshire, Hafiz Naveed completed Hifz at the age of 13, completed Diploma in Arabic and studied Islamic sciences in Damascus, Law Degree (LLB Hons), MA in Religion and Education in Contemporary Society, PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL, Headteacher of the year TES Awards (2019), involved in Scouts, District Commissioner (Joint) for Halifax, Weekend Arabic School, system leadership in education. Awarded OBE for education services (2020) Council member of BBSI (British Board of Scholars and Imams), Translator of *The Argument*, published by Sang -e-Meel.



## **DR RIZA MOHAMMED**

A Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon by profession, he is a member of the Faculty of Academic and Clinical Educators, UK. He provides clinical and educational supervision for medical students from the University of Liverpool. His interest lies in community development through leadership, education and training. His current leadership roles include executive board member of EAQS (European Academy of Quranic Studies), Trustee of the Islamic Foundation, UK and Chairman of the Caribbean Muslim Network (a body serving the needs of Muslim organisations in 35 Caribbean islands and countries). His publications include *Lots to Do: An Educational Book for Muslim Children*, *Journey Through Islam*, *Islam: The Way of Revival*, *Islamic Workers Training Manual* (2 volumes) and *In the Early Hours: Reflections on Spiritual and Self-development* (editor).



# TRAINERS BIOGRAPHIES



## **DR MASHUQ ALLY**

Dr Mashuq Ally is a Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Directors for MIHE (Markfield Institute of Higher Education). Currently he is Chair of Bordesley Green Girls School and Sixth Form, in addition to being a member of Birmingham City Council Schools Forum; he is also a member of the Shaikh Zayed Board for Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge; he founded and is Director of Global Trading Enterprise (Turkiye) which supports humanitarian work for refugees; he is a member of the executive board of the Birmingham Commonwealth Chamber. He is also currently a member of the Board of Governors for the University of Wolverhampton and one of its Chairs,

In 2017 Dr. Mashuq retired from Birmingham City Council where was Corporate Director, Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion Service. He was the Operational Lead in the City Council for social cohesion and sat on the Strategic Board for Youth Violence. He was also the City Council lead for Tackling Extremism. Dr. Mashuq was the first Director of the Commission for Racial Equality in Wales; Director of the Southeast Wales Racial Equality Council and advised the National Assembly for Wales on its Race Equality program.

Between 1986 and 1997, Dr. Mashuq was Director for the Centre of Islamic Studies, which he founded, at University of Wales, Lampeter. He has extensive experience in Inter-Faith work, particularly in the formation of the Centre for the Study of Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations, Birmingham. He was involved in the Jewish-Christian-Muslim (JCM) Standing Conference and established the Inter-Faith Council for Wales. He was a regular contributor to BBC Wales Weekend Word and BBC World Service.





# RETREAT & WEBINARS TOPICS

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1. Understanding the ABCs of critical thinking
2. Introduction to primary and secondary sources of Islamic knowledge
3. Overview of traditional schools of Islamic thought
4. Practical frameworks for understanding Islamic sources (Usul al-Fiqh, Maqasid, and Qawaid)
5. Quranic foundations of critical thinking
6. Study of contemporary critical thinkers in Islam
7. Ibn Ashur's categorization of Sunnah and its implications
8. Modern Muslim scholarly approaches to contemporary issues
9. Critical analysis methodologies for complex religious questions
10. Research methods and source verification in Islamic studies
11. Principles for respectful disagreement in scholarly discourse
12. Applying Islamic principles to modern decision-making challenges
13. Balancing personal responsibility and tradition
14. Developing an intelligent foundation for Islamic practice
15. Exploring Islam's rich intellectual history
16. Identifying Quranic principles as the basis for Muslim critical thinking





## RETREAT TIMETABLE

### FRIDAY 9TH MAY 2025

7.00pm to 8.00pm

Arrival; Salah; Registration;  
Accommodation allocation

8.00pm to 8.45pm

Dinner

8.45pm to 9.00pm

Salatul Maghrib

9.00pm to 10.00pm

Ice-breaker  
Introduction to Islam for for Critical Thinkers

# RETREAT TIMETABLE

## SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2025

4.15am to 4.45am

Wake Up; Preparation for Prayer

4.45am to 5.15am

Salatul Fajr & Nasiha

5.15am to 7.30am

Break

7.30am to 8.30am

Breakfast

8.30am to 9.00am

Team Building Exercise

9.00am to 10.30am

Workshop: Critical Thinking

10.30am to 10.45am

Tea Break

10.45am to 12.30pm

Workshop: Critical Thinking

12.30pm to 1.30pm

Lunch

1.30pm to 2.00pm

Salatul Zuhr/Asr and Nasiha

2.00pm to 4.00pm

Options: Sports/Networking/Mentoring

5.15pm to 5.45pm

Salatul Maghrib/Isha & Nasiha

5.45pm to 7.15pm

Workshop: Critical Thinking

7.30pm to 8.30pm

Dinner

8.45pm to 9.15pm

Salatul Maghrib/Isha & Nasiha

9.15pm to 10.00pm

Debate: Critical Thinking /Campfire

# RETREAT TIMETABLE

## SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2025

4.15am to 4.45am

Wake Up; Preparation for Prayer

4.45am to 5.15am

Salatul Fajr & Nasiha

5.15am to 7.30am

Break

7.30am to 8.30am

Breakfast

8.30am to 9.00am

Team Building Exercise

9.00am to 10.30am

Workshop: Critical Thinking

10.30am to 10.45am

Tea Break

10.45am to 12.30pm

Workshop: Critical Thinking

12.30pm to 1.30pm

Lunch

1.30pm to 2.00pm

Salatul Zuhr/Asr

2.00pm to 4.30pm

Workshop: Critical Thinking

4.30pm to 5.00pm

Closing session, evaluation, departure

**SATURDAY FAJR****QURANIC FOUNDATIONS OF CRITICAL THINKING: THE STORY OF IBRAHIM (AS)**

- Quranic Reference: "And thus did We show Ibrahim the realm of the heavens and the earth that he would be among the certain [in faith]." (Quran 6:75); "When the night covered him, he saw a star. He said, 'This is my lord.' But when it set, he said, 'I like not those that disappear.'" (Quran 6:76)
- Sunnah Reference: The Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) emphasized seeking knowledge and understanding: "Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim." (Ibn Majah)
- Presentation Focus: Explore how Ibrahim (AS) used critical observation, reasoning, and questioning to arrive at the truth about Allah. Discuss how this Quranic narrative encourages believers to think deeply, question assumptions, and seek evidence in their faith journey

**SATURDAY ZUHR****BALANCING TRADITION & MODERNITY: THE PRINCIPLE OF MAQASID AL-SHARIAH**

- Quranic Reference: "Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship." (Quran 2:185); "And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds." (Quran 21:107)
- Sunnah Reference: The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Make things easy and do not make them difficult, give good tidings and do not repel people." (Bukhari)
- Presentation Focus: Explain the concept of Maqasid al-Shariah (the objectives of Islamic law) and how it provides a framework for addressing modern challenges while staying true to Islamic principles. Use examples like financial transactions or bioethics to illustrate how the Quran and Sunnah prioritize ease, justice, and mercy.

**SATURDAY MAGHRIB****RESPECTFUL DIALOGUE: THE QURANIC APPROACH TO DIFFERING OPINIONS**

- Quranic Reference: "Invite to the way of your Lord with wisdom and good instruction, and argue with them in a way that is best." (Quran 16:125); "And do not argue with the People of the Scripture except in a way that is best." (Quran 29:46)
- Sunnah Reference: The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him speak good or remain silent." (Bukhari and Muslim)
- Presentation Focus: Discuss how the Quran and Sunnah emphasize respectful dialogue, even in the face of disagreement. Highlight examples from the Prophet's (ﷺ) life, such as his interactions with non-Muslims and differing opinions among his companions, to illustrate the importance of maintaining respect and wisdom in discourse.

**SUNDAY FAJR****CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SOURCES: THE IMPORTANCE OF VERIFICATION IN ISLAM**

- Quranic Reference: "O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful." (Quran 49:6)
- Sunnah Reference: The Prophet (ﷺ) said: "It is enough for a man to prove himself a liar when he goes on narrating whatever he hears." (Muslim)
- Presentation Focus: Explore the Quranic and Prophetic emphasis on verifying information before acting or spreading it. Discuss how this principle applies to modern challenges like misinformation, social media, and navigating differing Islamic opinions. Provide practical steps for evaluating sources and avoiding intellectual pitfalls.





## RETREAT MENU

Please see details of the retreat menu. Special items will be provided for those with allergies and other dietary requirements.

### Friday Dinner

Chicken curry with potatoes,  
boiled rice, salad, pita bread

### Saturday Breakfast

Boiled eggs, hummus, bread, butter,  
jam, beans, cereals, coffee, tea

### Saturday Lunch

Lamb Biryani, Raita, Salad,  
fresh fruit, cake

### Saturday Dinner

Tandoori chicken, salad, veg rice,  
veg curry, Kebab, fresh fruit, pita  
bread

### Sunday Breakfast

Boiled eggs, hummus, bread, butter,  
jam, beans, cereals, coffee, tea

### Sunday Lunch

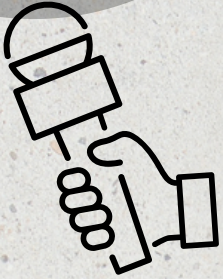
Chicken and chips, Salad,  
fresh fruit, cake



# LOCATION

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## MARKFIELD CONFERENCE CENTRE



The retreat will be held at Markfield Conference Centre, set in the countryside of the heart of rural England. This campus offers voluntary and youth groups and community organisations an ideal venue for social events and workshops. There is secure parking on-site & a prayer hall for men & women. WiFi is also available onsite.

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## RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

The Islamic Foundation owns and runs a self-contained residential facility within its complex. The accommodation has 44 single rooms in two residential blocks. The bedrooms are comfortable and simply furnished, and 8 rooms have ensuite facilities. All floors have toilets and shower facilities.

Each of the two residential blocks has a lounge with a fully-fitted kitchen that provides coffee/tea or refreshment-making facilities.

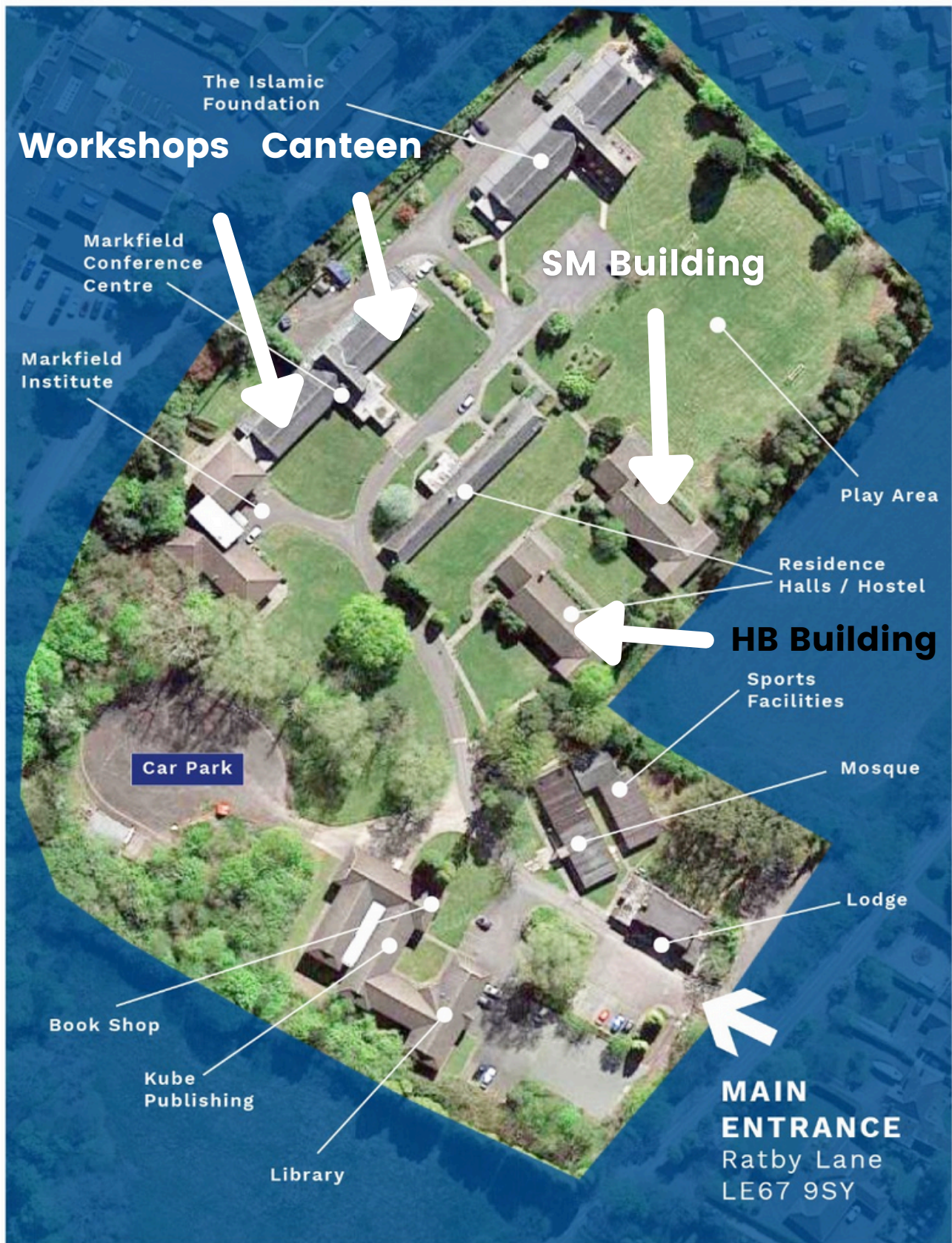


## ABOUT THE ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A charity established in the UK in 1973, dedicated to research, publishing, education, community support and inter-faith dialogue. Set amidst almost 10 Acres in Markfield, it provides a tranquil environment for studying. The site houses a Masjid, an extensive library, a residential conference centre and a bookshop.









# GETTING HERE

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**There are various ways to travel to the venue.**

**By Car:**

Ratby Lane, Markfield, LE67 9SY (free parking is available on-site)

**By Train & Taxi:**

The nearest train stations are:

- Leicester North Train Station (followed by 17 mins drive)
- Loughborough Train Station (followed by 20 mins)
- Leicester Train Station (followed by 22 mins drive )

**By Bus:**

Buses from Leicester run approx. every 40 mins from St. Margaret's bus station, no.29.

It takes you to the village and it's a short walk from there.

**Note:**

iLead does not provide transport from the train station to Markfield. We suggest you car share with other participants and take an Uber taxi.



# THINGS TO BRING

■ **LAPTOP, MOBILE PHONE AND DEVICE CHARGERS**

■ **TOILETRIES AND MEDICATION**

■ **WATER BOTTLE AND MUG**

We are trying to reduce single-use plastic as much as we can!

■ **TOWEL**

Every room has 1 pillow case, duvet and bed sheet

■ **NOTEBOOK AND PENS**

A workbook will be provided but feel free to bring a notebook if you want to make extra notes!

■ **WARM CLOTHING**

Including a warm winter jacket!





# FAQS

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- **Who are the organisers?**

iLead is a global youth leadership programme.

In a world seeking visionary leaders, iLead offers a transformative journey for the next generation of Muslim leaders. We provide the tools to lead with ethics and compassion, fusing faith-inspired values with contemporary leadership principles.

Join us on the path to becoming a visionary, compassionate, and impactful leader, shaping the future of ethical leadership.

Visit our website [ileadpro.org](http://ileadpro.org).

- **Is it mixed or segregated?**

Males & females will have separate living arrangements. Sessions and other activities will generally have separate seating in the same room.

However, some activities may be gender-specific. Our participants are taught and expected to uphold Islamic values when it comes to interaction with the opposite gender.



- **Can I stay in my own accommodation?**

Yes! Although we provide accommodation at the Markfield's Campus, if you prefer to book your own stay nearby - that is completely fine. For more info or help, you can email us on [ileadcourses@gmail.com](mailto:ileadcourses@gmail.com)

- **Do I have to stay for the full 3 days?**

It is highly recommended that you stay for the full duration because we want each attendee to get the best out of the retreat. But if you can only make it for one day or two, we will understand. However, we won't be able to lower the price. Please inform our team if you haven't already.

- **Can I bring children?**

Although we're keen for the future generation to get involved, this retreat is for adults from the age of 18+years.

- **Can iLead help organise transport?**

Everyone is required to make their own way. There are buses and taxis easily available from Leicester and Loughborough train stations to Markfield.

- **Is the retreat recorded?**

Most of the retreat and all the webinars will be video recorded. Our professional photographer will also be taking individual and group photos. Video recordings and photos will be used on social media.

# CONTACT US

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We look forward to welcoming you to the retreat!



07939919872



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