



Hi everyone!

I'm really looking forward to joining you as the Ammerdown Director next Tuesday and thought it would be useful to let you know a little of my background before turning up on the 13th!

After a successful commercial career in the 1980s and early 1990s, I moved to the charity sector in 1994 as the Director of a debt advice charity, a role I stayed in for 14 years. I then worked nationally for Citizens Advice for a couple of years before taking up the role of CEO of my local Age UK (Age UK South Gloucestershire), where I spent 12 years supporting and advocating for older people. For the past six months I've been heading up the Christmas Cheer Project at the Marmalade Trust, a charity that works with people experiencing chronic loneliness.

I'm also active in my local church where I've been the Treasurer for the past 8 years. We're a church that's very involved in our local community and, post-Covid, we've developed a very popular 'Warm welcome space' ('Where everyone is welcome') to connect with more of our local population, especially those who live on their own.

As you can probably see from the organisations above, social justice and 'shalom' are key things about which I'm passionate as an expression of my Christian faith. For several years, I have also been saying that I would love to be involved in a retreat centre. I have benefitted personally from taking retreats at key points in my life (including one at Ammerdown!) and I know from my perspective and from many others the value of 'time out' to reflect, listen and to explore where we are and what's next in our journeys of life. The focus on peace and reconciliation are also close to my heart.

So, when I became aware in November of Christine's imminent departure, I knew it was a role in which I was interested, as I felt it could bring together my passions, my charity experience, my faith and my commercial background.

I also know that I have some big shoes to fill with Christine stepping down, but as I join the Ammerdown team, my hope is that I will bring the passion that's in my DNA for peace and reconciliation and add to the fantastic work you're already doing. I'm keen to hear what each of you do and the ideas, hopes (and fears!) you may have, so that together, we can build on the strong foundations and develop the next Ammerdown chapter.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and to working with you to create an exciting future!

With my best wishes  
Martin



**Ammerdown**

HOSPITALITY • PEACE • RECONCILIATION