



Andrew Nicholls (UK)
Buddhist Name: Karmadeva (Divine Actions and Deeds)
Karmadeva ordained in 2020

My birth name is Andrew, but I received the Buddhist name of Karmadeva when I was ordained in December 2020. I had retreated to Amida Shu about five years prior to that in a ceremony in Malvern, and have been involved in Amida Shu for around seven years in total.

I have completed the vow 22 course, which I found extremely useful in my development and learning within the pureland school. At present I hold monthly meditation classes and I'm chair of the West Midland Buddhist Council. This is something that I need to spend more time on and I need to try to engage more Buddhist groups. I'm also a member of the Birmingham Faiths Council and hold the position of membership secretary. Liaison with other Buddhist schools and religious institutions is important to me and I learn a great deal from them all.

My work is in care, mental health care to be precise. I work with people with mental ill health and support them in a recovery journey, I find this interesting and very rewarding. I'm now offering pastoral care through the Birmingham Mental Health Trust.

As part of my work, building bridges with and learning from other Buddhist schools I am trustee on the Birmingham Buddhist Centre. This is comprised of a vihara, a Buddhist studies school and pagoda. All are important to me and although the monks are Theravada, we have a good relationship and respect each other.

I visit many temples where I take part in activities, retreats and meditation. I find all of this supports my bombu nature and helps me recognise my foolishness. I try to live my life by the precepts and although I know I will fall down, I continue to love and show compassion for all that I come into contact with.

