

This month's speaker

Allie Downing

Allie has had a successful sales and marketing management career within the finance sector working for some well recognised international companies. She juggled her career with raising a family – an ongoing battle to do justice to both.

When Allie's mother became terminally ill, the values that her parents had instilled in her came to the fore – integrity, empathy and family... She had previously felt it was important to climb the corporate ladder, however as soon as it became obvious that her mother couldn't return home from Hospital without a full time caregiver, Allie gave notice. For Allie this was the hardest yet most rewarding role she could have played – caring for her mother while showing her children the importance of family first.

During this period Allie completed some Open Polytechnic papers on Health & Human Behaviour – largely around grief and bereavement – she wanted to understand what she, her mother and the family were experiencing. When her mother passed away the idea of returning to the corporate world, where the return to shareholder was paramount, was no longer of interest to Allie. She went on a quest to find the perfect role where integrity, empathy and family were valued.

She joined the Hibiscus Hospice Fundraising Team as Planned Giving Coordinator. Today she is responsible for the stewardship of those special people who have left a gift in their Will to Hibiscus Hospice. The income from these bequests is currently helping to build an endowment fund designed to help Hibiscus Hospice meet the needs of the community as it grows and ensure contributors legacies live on.