



21 June, 2017  
033/17

## **Ecclesiastical mobilise to get older people in Manchester on the move and feeling less lonely**

**Staff from Ecclesiastical are stepping up their support to Age UK Manchester to help the charity combat loneliness in older people.**

The van that the charity used to pick up less mobile people from their homes and take them to Crossacres Resource Centre has broken down and is beyond repair. A team from Ecclesiastical's North Regional office in Manchester is, therefore, helping them to raise the funds for a new one.

Ecclesiastical gives a personal grant to all of its employees – a £125 donation to give to a cause close to their hearts – and this is doubled if the staff member chooses to volunteer for the same charity. By dedicating their grant and volunteering day to Age UK, staff from the Manchester office hope to raise around £5000 for a new van.

This activity got underway last week (June 15<sup>th</sup>) as they helped to run a tea party at Age UK's Holmfield Residential Care Home in Didsbury. With an entertainer creating a party atmosphere, the home's 24 residents enjoyed a sing-along and dancing; particularly fitting for one resident, Mary, who celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday on Sunday (18<sup>th</sup>)!

The residents also enjoyed three games of bingo and a 'how well do you know our Queen?' quiz run by the Ecclesiastical team with prizes of boxes of biscuits, which were donated by staff from the specialist insurer.

"We had a great day at Holmfield," said Elise Gibbons, senior claims handler at Ecclesiastical.

"It is such a friendly home from home with terrific dedicated staff, who ensure that everyone is able to continue their daily life with personal privacy and dignity. Everyone made us very welcome."

A team of five will now pick up their paintbrushes to decorate the new sensory room at Age UK's Openshaw Resource Centre, which offers a stimulating, enjoyable day out for older people suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's. Another group of volunteers will then paint a mural of a Blackpool scene in the room, and a willing workforce will help transform the care home's sensory garden.

The new sensory room has been funded by a £1200 grant from All Churches Trust – the charitable trust that owns Ecclesiastical. Staff will use the money they raised at a recent dress down today, which will be doubled by Ecclesiastical, to fund the materials for the project.

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“Sally [Deputy CEO of Age UK] said that she would like to use the money we raise through volunteering to buy the new minibus to transport isolated people to day care so that we have something to see for our efforts,” said Ecclesiastical office manager, Sue Rayment.

“We thought that was a brilliant idea. Age UK is a fantastic charity and our staff love to feel they are able to support the great work they do. The new van will help older people to get out of the house and socialise with others so they feel less isolated, and we’re so pleased to be fundraising for it alongside providing really valuable practical volunteering support that will improve the lives of residents at the care home.”

Ecclesiastical marked a major milestone in June 2016 when it celebrated hitting its target of donating £50million to good causes in three years and that total has now risen to more than £67m.

**\*\*\*Ends\*\*\***

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## **Notes to editors**

1. Owned by a registered charity, Allchurches Trust, Ecclesiastical is a unique financial services organisation. With its main operations and headquarters in the UK, Ecclesiastical also operates in Australia, Canada and Ireland.
2. Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer of the faith, heritage, fine art, charities, education and private client sectors.
3. Founded in 1887 to provide insurance for the Anglican Church, the company now offers a wide range of commercial insurances, as well as home insurance, selling through brokers and directly.
4. The Ecclesiastical Group also includes award-winning investment management business, EdenTree Investment Management, which provides a range of ethically screened investment funds.
5. Ecclesiastical is one of the UK’s top five corporate donors to charity in the 2016-17 UK Guide to Company Giving. Other 2016 awards include Better Society Awards, Insurer of the Year and Post Magazine, Claims Awards, Customer Care winner.

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6. In 2014, Ecclesiastical Insurance Group launched its vision to donate £50million to charity in a three-year period. In March 2016 the Group announced that it had reached its target almost a year ahead of schedule and that figure now stands at £67m.

7. Many businesses say they are different. Ecclesiastical really is. Find out why at [www.ecclesiastical.com/ourstory](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/ourstory)