

connecting for
generations



connecting for change

When people connect I truly believe that great things can happen. And bringing people and communities together, weaving valuable human connections, is the thread that runs through everything we do here at Ecclesiastical – and always have done. It's how we're helping to bring about positive change.

It's been inspirational to look at the work of charities such as Safe Families UK and to see the power of connections at play. To see how local church volunteers are bringing hope and vital support to families in need. Or to see how The Hygiene Bank has given people living in poverty a sense of self-worth and the confidence to take up their place in society.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, these vital human connections are under threat – the already vulnerable are feeling more vulnerable still. Now more than ever, we have to look after each other. To support communities and charities – who are having to pivot, adapt and find the best ways to reach those that need help at this unprecedented time. It's why we've boosted our efforts to support emergency appeals and are funding projects to help get us through this pandemic and beyond – both through our own giving and the profits we provide to our charitable owner, Allchurches Trust.

In 2019 we gave £32.5m to help charities throughout the UK, Ireland, Canada and Australia. And since setting ourselves a £100m giving target in 2016, we've donated over £97m to over 7,000 charities that are tackling the big issues, like poverty, disability, education, health and heritage. And in true Ecclesiastical spirit, we've already got our sights set on £100m+. We're proud of this ambition and proud to be one of the UK's top five corporate donors to charity.*

Over 130 years ago our founders created a very different kind of business. We're a financial services group that exists to give its profits to charity and we're proud to be giving back to the communities we serve and championing the issues that really matter to them – connecting people, so that together, we can build a movement for good.

On the following pages you can learn about these charities and see the amazing things that happen when business and communities connect.



Mark Hews
Group Chief Executive
Ecclesiastical

* Fourth in the list of the UK's corporate donors to charity in the Directory of Social Change's 2017-18 UK Guide to Company Giving



connecting for companionship

“Give a Dog a Bone has given me a place to socialise and a feeling of belonging.”

For many older people, Give a Dog a Bone's spaces are a lifeline, giving them an opportunity to get out, feel part of their community and make new friends. And as winners of Ecclesiastical UK's 2019 Movement for Good awards, the charity has been given a grant of £50,000 to help towards their project 'Companionship in the Community', offering two-legged and four-legged companionship to the over 60s across Scotland.

Give a Dog a Bone was set up to help combat loneliness among older people – and the rising number of animals in shelters – by bringing the two together. For older people struggling to afford to feed their pets, the charity provides help with monthly pet food and insurance costs. And for those who can't afford a pet, Give a Dog a Bone pays all the fees of rehoming a pet from an animal shelter and provides ongoing support.

Their latest project, Companionship in the Community, provides friendly spaces where retired people, with or without a dog, can drop in for companionship, a cuppa and a range of free activities from coffee mornings and dog walks to free language classes and reflexology. Very quickly the charity were welcoming around 200 people through their doors each week – clear evidence of the power

of a wet nose and a waggly tail in connecting people.

Describing her joy at discovering they'd won the grant, Give a Dog a Bone's founder, Louise Russell, says: "When I found out we'd won I actually screamed. £50,000 is going to be life changing to the beneficiaries of the communities that we would like to move into."

Understandably, the outbreak of Covid-19 meant a change in plan. With their premises closed, the team were concerned that those who desperately needed some company would be at risk of further social isolation, so they began to make 'Sunshine calls' to keep in touch, and send out 'Sunshine packs'. As Linda, a Give a Dog a Bone recipient puts it: "It has made a great difference getting the wee cheery phone calls, and the surprise present in the mail just brightened up my day."

Talking about the impact of Covid-19, Louise says: "In a weird kind of way this period has given everybody exposure to how it feels to be isolated. What this has proven to me, is that what we are doing is needed." And with such lovely feedback being received, it's clear the service is having a positive impact on those who need it the most.

connecting for hope

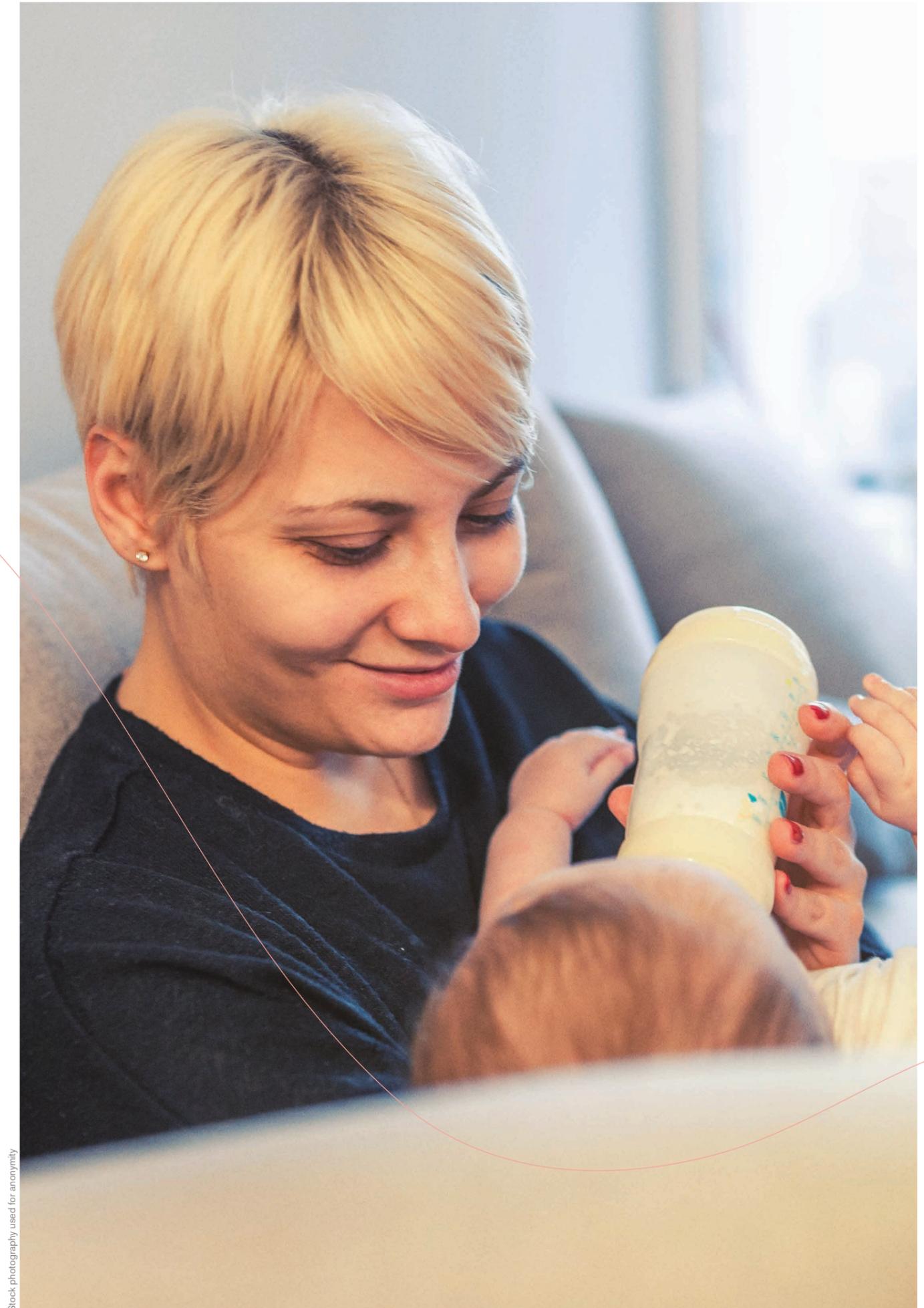
"I got so depressed that I went back to self-harming – I even attempted suicide. I couldn't look after myself, let alone anyone else. Safe Families were amazing – they went above and beyond to make this house a home and make it perfect for Elijah, my baby." Amber's is just one of a growing number of families whose lives have been transformed. And Allchurches Trust has given Safe Families UK a grant of £280,327 over three years, giving them the opportunity to support and reconnect vulnerable families and help reduce the number of children going into care.

Safe Families UK is a Christian charity that works hand in hand with children's services to link families in need with local volunteers who can offer much-needed help. Many of these volunteers are from local churches who provide vital support, especially at times of crisis. And their innovative approach has helped reduce the number of children being taken into care by up to 16%. Kat Osborn, CEO of Safe Families UK, explains: "These church /family relationships bring hope and practical help; they encourage, they provide the support of a good friend, neighbour, aunt or grandparent that many of us take for granted and without whom our own stories could look very different."

The funding from Allchurches Trust will enable Safe Families to grow its capacity and capability to work with churches across the UK. Currently, the charity connects over 1,000 isolated and vulnerable children, families and care leavers each year, with its network of over 4,500 volunteers from local churches. With the help of the grant, hundreds more at-risk families will be supported to stay together and thrive. And with the Covid-19 pandemic seriously affecting the ability of services to support children and families in need, this help has never been more important.

"Facing life alone can be hard," says Kat Osborn. "When a family feels isolated, that there is no one who can help them, it's a scary place to be." That was certainly the case for Amber. Thanks to Safe Families, she now knows she's not alone. Reflecting on the help she received moving to a new house, from two of the charity's volunteers, she says: "I had amazing support. Rachel and Robert literally helped as much as they could. They didn't leave until they knew Elijah and I had somewhere safe to sit, sleep and enough milk and bottles. It was just nice, because that's what a normal person would have – they'd have family to help them move. I actually have somewhere now to call home."

"I was sleeping on a mattress on the floor and before that I was sleeping on the floor – no carpet, nothing."



Stock photography used for anonymity

connecting for wellbeing

“Paul waits for his carer by the window every Saturday morning; he knows he is going to Club Islington. When his carer arrives, he doesn’t stop smiling.”

Paul’s mum, Susan, loves seeing her son so happy and hugely appreciates the support she gets from Disability Sports Coach clubs. And as winners of Ecclesiastical UK’s 2019 Movement for Good awards, Disability Sports Coach has been given a grant of £50,000 to help run a series of five inspirational sports events for disabled people – as well as to help grow its weekly sports clubs across London.

Disability Sports Coach firmly believes that being active has a positive impact on disabled people’s lives. To help enable this, they provide award-winning sport and physical activity opportunities specially for the disabled community and educational organisations. As well as providing safe, inclusive spaces, they provide coaches who offer specialist support. They also look at the physical and social improvements that come from being physically active – such as balance, coordination and communication.

Talking about the award, Disability Sports Coach’s fundraising manager Amardeep Gill says: “It’s absolutely amazing news, we couldn’t quite believe it. It is going to help us ensure we have additional coach capacity for our clubs to meet demand, so that even more disabled people can benefit from weekly sports sessions and get more personalised support.”

With Covid-19 forcing the closure of their clubs, the team at Disability Sports Coach have found creative

ways to help keep their members motivated, to stay active and feel part of a community during these challenging times. They have sent out packs with items like table tennis sets, skipping ropes and tennis balls together with a Home Activity Programme written by specialist Disability Sports Coach educators. They’ve also developed a range of weekly online activities, like Zoom sessions, quizzes and social media activity challenges – all aiming to motivate as many disabled people as possible to be active in the safety of their homes – and have a great time doing so.

“There was a real risk that members of the disabled community could become even more isolated and lonely,” says Peter Ackred, Chief Executive of Disability Sports Coach. “We know just how powerful community sport can be for improving disabled individuals’ mental and physical health, so we were determined to keep people engaged, connected and active during the Covid-19 pandemic.”

Reaching close to 2,000 disabled people so far, for members like Sam, Disability Sports Coach’s ongoing support has been vital. As Sam’s mum explains: “Disability Sports Coach Zoom sessions are the highlight of Sam’s week. They stop him from feeling isolated during lockdown and are helping him to keep fit, both physically and mentally.”

connecting for self-esteem

Taylor, aged 19, lives in supported housing after six months of sleeping rough, and is one of the people who've benefitted from the services of The Hygiene Bank project in Eastbourne.

The project was the brainchild of one of Ansvar UK's brokers who asked if Ansvar could put together a team to set up an Eastbourne arm of The Hygiene Bank charity. That was in July 2019 and two months later it was up and running – run solely by volunteers from Ansvar.

The Hygiene Bank charity is a grass roots, community initiative giving hygiene, personal care and household cleaning products to people in need across the UK. As its founder, Lizzy Hall, explains: "Basic hygiene goes to the core of self-worth, self-respect, confidence and dignity. With hygiene poverty comes isolation, exclusion and shame and these impact our ability to participate in society and therefore what it means to be human."

In the first four months of the Eastbourne project taking off, half a tonne of goods were collected and distributed to local charities including women's refuges,

charities supporting the homeless and families on the poverty line. Together with their neighbouring Hygiene Bank, they've also raised £1,200 through fundraising activities, which will be used to buy more supplies. As Lizzy Hall puts it: "These products aren't life or death but they are fundamental to a sense of dignity and mental wellbeing and our ability to impact society and interact. If Covid-19 has done anything, it's put the issue of hygiene on everyone's radar."

Someone who's seen first-hand the effects of poverty hygiene on a person's sense of self-worth is Kelly Barter, lead coordinator of the Eastbourne Hygiene Bank project. "People stop using shampoo and deodorant long before they get hungry. People will scrimp on hygiene products to get the food they need. It's incredibly sad." Fortunately, she's also seen the positive effects – by helping people like Taylor. As he himself puts it: "I used to sit at the back of the class trying to be invisible. But now I chat with the others and I've got a girlfriend." By providing such small, simple products, The Hygiene Bank is giving people's self-esteem a huge boost.

"I didn't realise how much better I felt when I was clean. I definitely feel more confident and feel more like I belong."



Stock photography used for anonymity

connecting for practical help

“Your assistance and generosity put proper school shoes on five of my grandchildren’s feet.”

“And my eldest grandson, who is in Year 10, can participate in a work experience programme, with all the right gear.” This is from a letter sent by Winnie thanking Grandparents For Grandchildren South Australia for their help in financially supporting the grandchildren in their care. And Ansvar Australia gave the charity a grant of AUD \$15,000 towards their Supplementary Education and Sports Fund.

Grandparents For Grandchildren is a voluntary, not for profit organisation that helps prevent at-risk children from entering the statutory child protection system, instead keeping them within their extended families wherever they can. It provides information, training, advocacy and support services to grandparents and other kinship carers who have taken on the role of primary carer of the children and who would otherwise be struggling with the emotional, financial and legal complexities.

Grandparents For Grandchildren’s Supplementary Education and Sports Fund programme is focused on assisting at-risk or traumatised children across the State of South Australia, including Aboriginal and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse children, who have been removed

from fractured and abusive family environments to be cared for by their grandparents or other kin. The grant will be used to help struggling grandcarers to purchase essential education-related items for their grandchildren – such as uniforms and laptops – so they can remain at school and make the most of their educational opportunities. It also helps with the cost of food and other basics.

Grandparents For Grandchildren has been entirely operated by unpaid volunteers for 17 years. The only organisation of its kind in Australia, it currently has over 14,000 family members on its books and the numbers keep on growing. And with the restrictions brought on by Covid-19, the charity is busier than ever, as the soaring number of domestic violence cases means more children need to be moved into care.

For grandparents like Winnie, Grandparents For Grandchildren has made a world of difference. As her letter goes on to say: “I want to let you know how extremely grateful we are for your support and kindness and to let you know how much of a difference your assistance makes to the overall wellbeing of my grandchildren.” And for hard working charity members, a little appreciation goes a long way.



connecting for emotional support

“The mental side of it is awful, with long-term effects stretching on for many years even where the child survives, and it fragments the tightest of families. But despite this there is very little provision for services to help families cope. Our aim is to do what we can to minimise the suffering and pain for all involved.” Alice Nugent lost her daughter Katie to leukaemia, aged just six years old. Together with her husband, Nick, she set up The Katie Nugent Fund, to help other families going through the same ordeal. And Lycetts has awarded the charity a grant of £2,500 to help support their invaluable work.

Katie died in 2010 after a courageous struggle. Her illness was a profoundly testing time not just for this brave little girl but for her parents and her sister Lucy too. The Katie Nugent fund was established in 2011 within the Children’s Medical and Research Foundation to provide psychological and emotional support for the children on St John’s Ward in Crumlin, and their families, during cancer treatment.

Talking about her experience Alice says: “Throughout her illness, Katie

retained her normal joie de vivre, and in doing so helped us to remain strong. It is not so easy for every family, and no parent should experience the despair that arises when abject misery replaces the normal optimism and innocence that has previously defined your child.”

Lycetts director William Nicholl says: “Some of our staff have personal connections to Katie’s family, so this is very close to our hearts and we were absolutely delighted to be able to help.” Lycetts knows that money-raising efforts become even more important during a crisis such as Covid-19, when charitable donations to many smaller, less known charities drop considerably. So, they keep up their sponsorship commitments – even when times are tough. Talking about the grant, Alice says: “We’re really grateful to Lycetts and Ecclesiastical for their support – the Covid-19 outbreak has unfortunately led to the postponement of some fundraising events, so it is very timely.” Ensuring that families of children undergoing cancer treatment get continued support is something everyone is determined to see happen.

“Chemotherapy attacks the illness, but unfortunately it also attacks the spirit.”





connecting for inner strength

“I learned so much here. I learned to stop blaming myself for his actions.”

“I learned that it’s OK for me to just leave when a situation is making me feel unsafe.” Sasha is one of many women who has experienced domestic abuse and whose life has been turned around by Alice House. And the charity has been given a special Covid-19 grant by Ecclesiastical Canada to help them continue their invaluable work. The CAD \$7,500 grant will enable them to keep an additional staff member for around two months, providing much-needed relief and support to their team, as they continue to support the women they are serving, and sustaining those whose wellbeing is threatened by domestic violence.

Alice House provides longer term safe housing, as well as counselling and support services to women and children who are fleeing and recovering from domestic violence. It provides opportunities for women and their children to create a life free from domestic violence, ensuring that abuse doesn’t shape their future. People often remain in abusive relationships because they can’t see that the situation they are in will ever change or because they have nowhere to escape to. Alice House provides them with far more than a safe roof

over their heads – it gives them the time and support for their physical and emotional healing to take place. Their programmes are designed to help women break the cycle of violence in their lives and make the transition to independent living.

Since social isolation measures were put in place in Nova Scotia, the charity has seen a marked increase in domestic violence. They have moved four families, who were experiencing violence at home, into their safe housing and are providing enhanced security supports and measures for women, already living at Alice House, whose ex-partners are becoming more violent, or who have been released from prison early due to Covid-19. Staff have been working overtime every week to keep up, so having an extra pair of hands – made possible by the grant – makes a real difference.

For women like Sasha it’s made a real difference. “I learned I am a lot stronger than I thought possible.” And it was thanks to the compassion and support of the team at Alice House that she was able to discover – and tap into – those inner reserves of strength.

connecting for increased potential

Reading for pleasure can have a fundamental positive impact on children's lives. The Junior Juries Award is a unique annual programme, run by Children's Books Ireland, for schools, libraries and book clubs. Designed to encourage reading, children judge from a wide variety of shortlisted books before picking the winner. And as winners of Ecclesiastical UK's 2019 Movement for Good awards, the charity has been given a grant of £50,000 to help expand this innovative and exciting scheme.

An active arts charity, Children's Books Ireland strives to raise awareness of the powerful connection between reading and life opportunities and to make books central to every child's life. Founded in 1997, they inspire young people and celebrate authors and illustrators through a huge range of events and workshops – providing a vital resource and fostering a greater understanding of the importance of books in children's core development.

Children who read for pleasure tend to be more absorbed in school, have better literacy and numeracy skills, a higher likelihood of success in education and beyond, as well as improved wellbeing. Significant lifestyle shifts have, however, changed the way that children interact with books. Research shows that reading

drops off substantially between the ages of 9 and 13, so Children's Books Ireland knows this is a crucial time to help children to develop and maintain a love of reading. In doing so, they're helping them to reach their potential – influenced by a new understanding of the vast and diverse world they inhabit.

"Winning this grant enables us to continue our mission to make books central to every child's life, and will have a profound, positive impact on the lives of thousands of children all over Ireland," enthuses Elaina Ryan, CEO of Children's Books Ireland.

With schools closed and author events cancelled due to Covid-19, this year's programme had to adapt quickly to engage children with the shortlisted books. "We had to pivot really quickly to digital," explains Elaina, adding: "The reach that we have had from a mix of Zoom calls into homes, and artist videos encouraging reading and creative activities linked to the books, has been extraordinary and I think that has had real value for families."

With Ecclesiastical's support, Children's Books Ireland continues to inspire children. As Elaina enthusiastically puts it: "We are delighted to be bringing books to the students and schools that might not otherwise have access to reading."

"Junior Juries was an exceptional experience. The group was lovely, the books were fabulous and I feel like I have gained immensely."





connecting for confidence

“Forest School sets learning in a different context, encouraging team-working, developing independence and building self-esteem.”

Regularly connecting with nature through Forest School is proven to help people to increase their self-belief, grow their communication and problem-solving skills and boost their mental, physical and emotional wellbeing. Through Nature Vibezzz, many people of all ages have found a new self-confidence and the skills to successfully deal with life's challenges. And the charity has received a £10,000 grant from the EdenTree Community Investment Fund, intended to go towards their Forest School programme, running 30 Forest School and Nature Conservation activities at various sites in South London.

Nature Vibezzz provides outdoor educational services, environmental education and practical nature conservation sessions, programmes, events and community projects. Their aim is to run services that get the community outdoors – especially young people who are not so confident about themselves or around nature. They promote nature activities, support volunteering, help other organisations and provide opportunities for the disadvantaged, elderly and schoolchildren. The 30 Forest School and Nature

Conservation activities, funded by the EdenTree grant, will be designed to encourage and inspire individuals through positive outdoor experiences. Many will be child-led, helping children to develop initiative, self-confidence and social skills, and will be aimed at families and specific groups from schools, community groups and other charities. The activities, all free, will include: den building, woodcraft, organic gardening, nature walks, nature photography and ways to recycle and reduce waste.

The Covid-19 pandemic has, understandably, seriously affected the charity's work. And they are currently working hard to find the best, most inclusive ways to deliver their sessions, workshops and other activities to reach as many people as possible in the safest and most beneficial way. One thing's for sure. Through their innovative, exploratory approach to learning, Nature Vibezzz provides a unique opportunity for people – often facing considerable challenges – to discover practical things about the natural world around them, as well as to discover valuable things about themselves.

connecting for a fresh start

“Nursing Emerald back to full health took months. It was one of the most shocking cases of neglect our team had ever seen,” says Emma Carter, Bransby Horses’ Executive Director of Equine Welfare. When Emerald was rescued from a stable in Nottinghamshire by Bransby Horses and the RSPCA, it was touch and go as to whether she would survive. Emerald is just one of many severely neglected horses to have been rescued by Bransby Horses, and the charity has received a welcome financial boost with a £15,000 grant from SEIB.

One of the UK’s largest equine welfare charities, Bransby Horses provides rescue and welfare services for horses and ponies along with donkeys and mules, with a focus on rehabilitation and careful handling to give animals a second lease of life. Currently, they have around 900 animals in their care across their own sites or in foster homes, and in order to keep up their vital work they rely entirely on public funding.

“We are absolutely delighted with the incredible £15,000 awarded to us by SEIB,” says Sally Crawford,

Bransby Horses’ Executive Director of Engagement and Income Generation. “The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that we’ve had to close our visitor centre – a vital source of funding – for several months, and this has obviously had a serious impact on our charity work. This, on the back of the devastation caused by flooding in November 2019, has meant working has been tougher than usual. The money we’ve been so kindly awarded will go towards purchasing an all-terrain vehicle which we can use at our Barlings site where over 50 horses and ponies have been moved as a result of our Bransby land being ravaged by the floods.”

In previous years the SEIB Charity Awards required that the grants should be used for a specific project. However, in light of Covid-19, SEIB realised how difficult it would be for charities to operate this year and have been much more flexible about how the money can be used. For Bransby Horses, the grant was an equine lifeline, enabling them to carry on with their work in preventing and relieving cruelty to horses and to protect them from unnecessary suffering.

“Emerald was emaciated and suffering from exhaustion – she required round-the-clock care from our team to bring her back from the brink.”



connecting for craftsmanship

“Collaboration is a big aspect of the course, as it’s about bringing different crafts together to make something that bit more extraordinary.”

“Combining traditional construction methods with modern advances in sustainability is fundamentally important in the creation of vibrant, cohesive places. The course gives you an amazing opportunity to study, work and learn with people who share these ideals. It also enables you to gain experience where you may not have been able to do so before, allowing you to focus on learning – not the financial implications of not working.” Jim Nightingale is a 29-year-old student on the Building Arts Programme from The Prince's Foundation and Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QUEST), and Ecclesiastical UK has donated a gift to the Prince's Foundation of £150,000, spread over three years to help support eight students to take part in this new, multidisciplinary programme.

The Prince's Foundation supports people to create community – whether through championing a sustainable approach to how we live our lives and build our homes, teaching traditional arts and skills and restoring historic sites, or by looking after places to visit for everyone to enjoy. The new Building Arts Programme was established by The Prince's Foundation in partnership with QUEST to help preserve valuable skills, which are gradually being lost as the average age of workers in the heritage sector approaches retirement age.

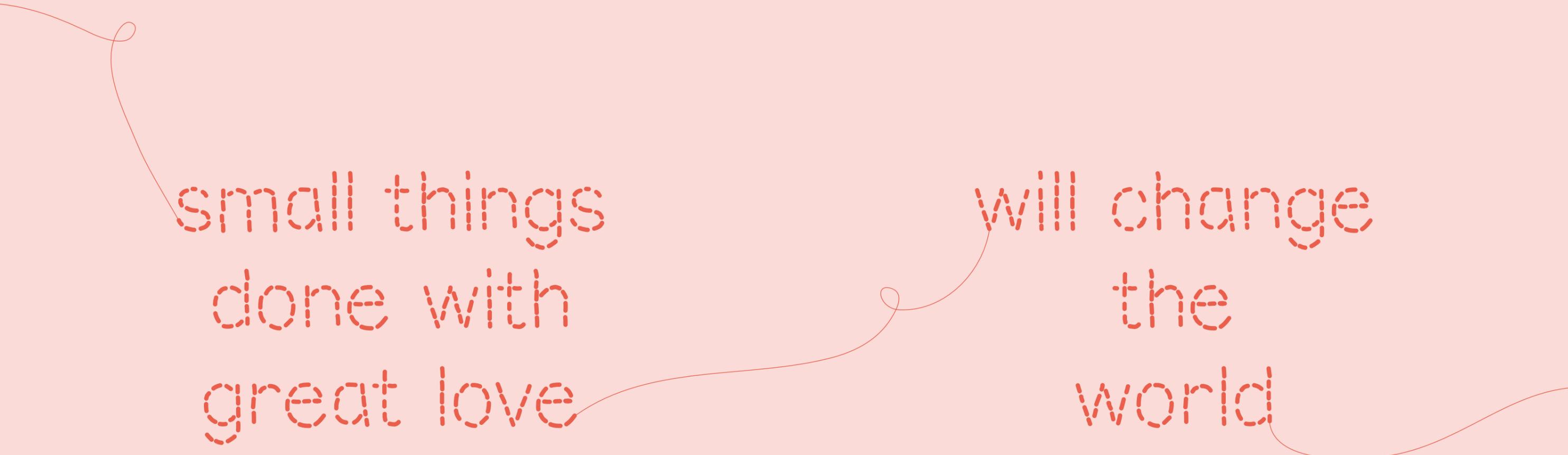
The programme takes place at Dumfries House in Scotland, where

students will have the opportunity to learn new skills first-hand from master craftspeople.

Explaining more about the programme, Michael Goodger, Built Environment Education Manager for The Prince's Foundation at Dumfries House, says: “We hope to inspire a future generation of designers, artists and makers to create a built environment which draws on a vast array of different skills, and celebrates the physical, temporal and even symbolic connections which can be realised through our buildings and places.” Deborah Pocock, CEO of QUEST, adds: “We will draw on our wide network of master craftspeople to ensure the skills that they have learnt are passed on to the next generation. This course presents a wonderful opportunity for students to learn from each other, across a broad range of craft disciplines.”

In light of Covid-19 the course was extended and adapted – with online lectures, a group focus and remote working, until face to face delivery could be up and running again. Talking about the impact of the pandemic on students, Jim says: “I’ve been staying with someone else from the course during lockdown and we’ve collaborated on a bench, which has been great – we’ve learnt from each other by working together.” And this spirit of collaboration is at the very heart of the programme – giving students unique insights and future inspiration.





small things
done with
great love

will change
the
world

Mother Teresa

connecting for good

Since 2016, hand in hand with our charitable owner, Allchurches Trust, we've given over £97m in grants and donations. Impressive as these numbers might seem, it's the countless precious human connections they help forge, that are truly remarkable – a cheery phone call to brighten up the day of older people like Linda; vital support for vulnerable mums like Amber and a new sense of self-worth for once-invisible people like Taylor. These are just some of the people whose lives have been transformed through our giving. And through initiatives like our Movement for Good awards and 12 Days of Giving, people have the chance to influence where our giving goes – whether it's grants for heritage and educational projects or funding for community and health programmes. And wherever our funds are directed – our giving extends from the UK and Ireland to Canada and Australia – our aim is the same: to create powerful connections that improve people's lives, building a movement for good.

We're proud of our ambition to give more than £100m to good causes. Since 2016 we've given over £97m in grants and donations.

£100m

We asked our customers, partners, employees and supporters which causes they would like to support – we're proud to support the charities we know they care about.



Charitable causes data from 2019 Movement for Good awards

From major partnerships and multi-year funding to hundreds of small donations, we're giving charities and communities the support they need.

£200,000+

Our support over several years to fund The Prince's Foundation's heritage skills programmes.

£50,000

Grant funding available for charities over multiple years through our Movement for Good awards.

£2,500

Donations our closest broker partners can give to causes they care about.

£1,000

Hundreds of donations we've given to every kind of cause all over the UK and Ireland through our 12 days of Giving and Movement for Good awards.

£125

Small donations every employee can give to a charity of their choice through our employee-led giving programme MyGiving.

Fable

Design. Art Direction. Production.

Ecclesiastical Positive Impact Report 2019/20

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc

Beaufort House

Brunswick Road

Gloucester

GL1 1JZ

ecclesiastical.com



Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No.24869 is registered in England at Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL11JZ, UK and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

All facts and figures contained in this report relate to the calendar year/s 2019/20 unless otherwise stated.