



Press Release  
Immediate Release  
17 April 2026

### **Care Resident Turns Community Volunteer Thanks to Staff Support**

A resident supported by a social care service in Gloucestershire has reclaimed his independence and is now volunteering at both the local church and a village pub after a confidence boost from care staff.

Michael, 52, moved to The Old Vicarage in Blakeney in 2002, where he has received ongoing support for his health and wellbeing. The service, part of Cygnet Social Care, provides residential support to adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.

During his early time at the service, Michael found travelling long distances and visiting unfamiliar places challenging. With support from staff, he began to build confidence and establish a daily routine.

He initially started by walking to a local shop each morning. Over time, these trips extended into longer walks around the village, and he later began running regularly.

As part of his routine, Michael was encouraged to take part in community activities. Staff at The Old Vicarage contacted the minister at All Saints Church in Blakeney, where Michael began volunteering once a week, helping with tasks such as cleaning and general maintenance.

He has since taken on an additional volunteering role at a local pub, where he assists twice a week with duties including sweeping floors and clearing tables.

Stevie Harris, Service Manager at The Old Vicarage, said: "Michael's journey is a powerful example of how the right support, environment and opportunities can help people rebuild their lives and thrive within their communities.

"We are all very proud of the progress he has made. Today, Michael is a well-known and valued member of the Blakeney community. Local residents describe him as polite, thoughtful and friendly, and many people in the village know him by name.

"With the support of his care team and a structured routine that includes volunteering and social activities, Michael has achieved the stability and independence he always wanted.

"Michael's story is just one example of the progress residents make at our service."