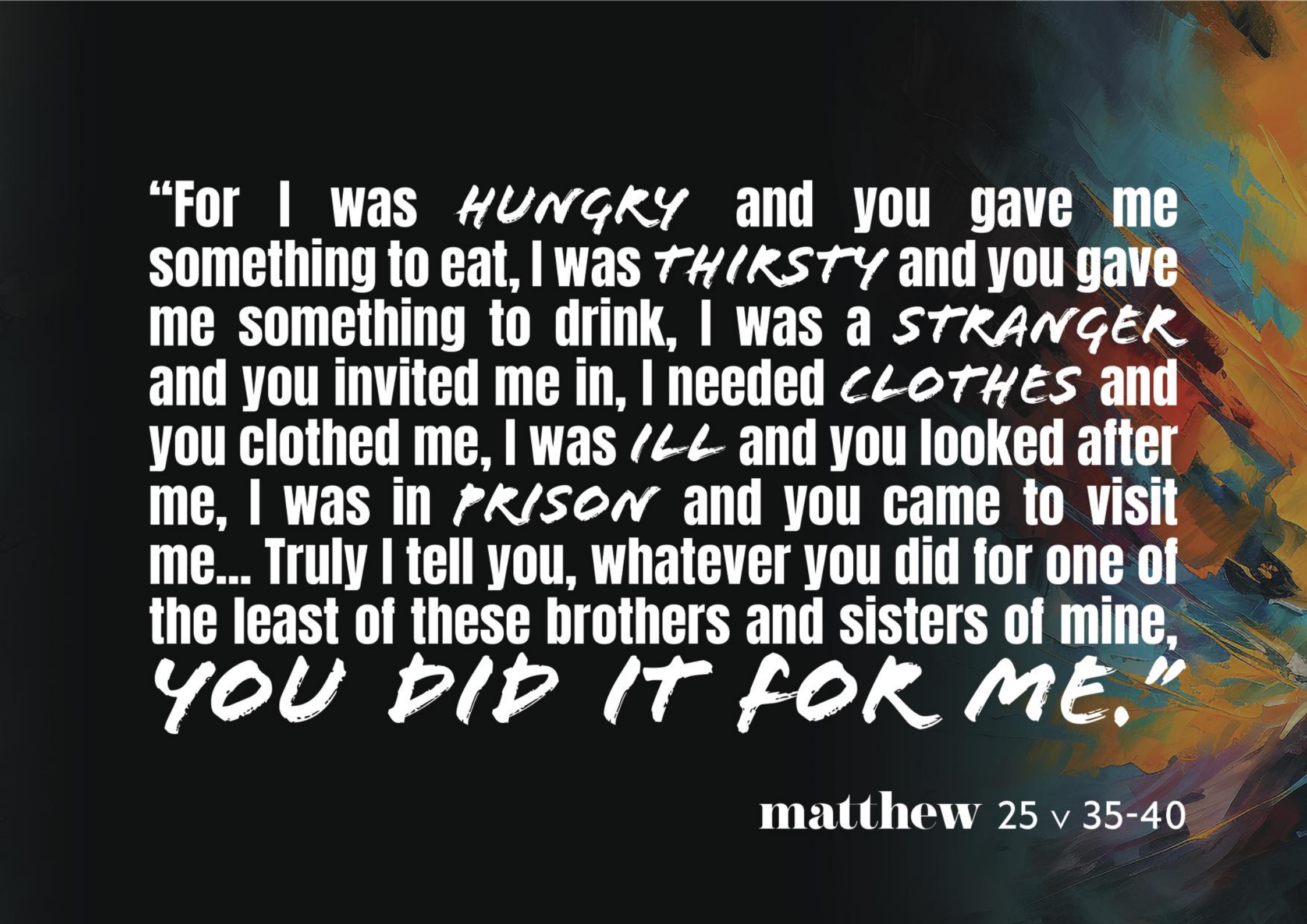
Booklet updated
22nd September 2026

one CHURCH

VISION 2027


"For I was HUNGRY and you gave me something to eat, I was THIRSTY and you gave me something to drink, I was a STRANGER and you invited me in, I needed CLOTHES and you clothed me, I was ILL and you looked after me, I was in PRISON and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, YOU DID IT FOR ME."
matthew 25 v 35-40

Hello Everyone.

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet and to pray into the wonderful opportunities it brings to us as a church. Everything in the heart of One Church and Open Hands has its foundation in Jesus. He is the Beginning and the End, and in Him all things hold together.

It's been an amazing 12 months since our last Vision Offering and we are thankful for all He has done. We have seen many people saved and baptised, many touched by the power of the Spirit, thousands of seeds planted and kindness sown. We are about to plant our sixth site, our ministries are thriving and we are living in blessing. The building next to the One Centre has been demolished and the ground prepared for a new vision.

"LET US PAINT YOU A PICTURE OF WHAT LIES AHEAD..."

Today we stand at the threshold of the next step into His heart and together we are called to trust Him. Let us paint you a picture of what lies ahead...

We have felt the Father clearly speak to us that No 12 Frog Island is to be a Compassion Centre for Leicester and beyond. The words of Jesus continue to inspire and challenge us - '***whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me'***. Building this will secure the long-term legacy of our charity Open Hands and guarantee a safe space for people to receive love, practical support and compassion for the next 100+ years.

In this booklet you will find an update of last year's Vision Offering and the difference it has made and you will find out the details of the 2027 Vision Offering, what we are going to do, how we are believing to do it and the vital part you can play.

You are loved and we are in this together,

DAVID & SUSAN HIND
Senior Leaders, One Church

L O O K W H A T T H E

LORD HAS DONE

In November 2025 over £320,000 was given and pledged and as we write we expect over 90% of that to be received. Here is what we did together:

Over a 5 month period we brought Number 12 down - thank you. This cost around £240,000 and prepares the way for what lies ahead.

BUILD UP ACCESSIBILITY

We have made the One Centre stage accessible for all by installing a platform lift, serving those with limited mobility or in wheelchairs.

We have changed our display text to make it easier to read and follow.

We have comfortable seats and ear defenders available where needed.

We have added clearer signage to the One Centre.

We have built an ‘accessibility’ page on our website.

BUILD UP IN COMMUNITY

We ran a brilliant second year of the One Church Go Weekend. We also continued to invest in taking United forward with many wonderful developments and events.

BUILD UP A GAP YEAR

We have begun with 4 amazing young men who started our relaunched Gap Year in August 2026.

BUILD UP SITES/BUILDINGS

We invested in our community centre in Braunstone by undertaking some building improvements at the Oak Centre.

BUILD UP COMPASSION

We have begun to bring together the various strands of the compassion work of One Church under a new banner: 'One Church Compassion'. This includes what happens in Open Hands, our sites, overseas compassion projects and the whole arena of justice. There will be some more exciting developments as we move forward.

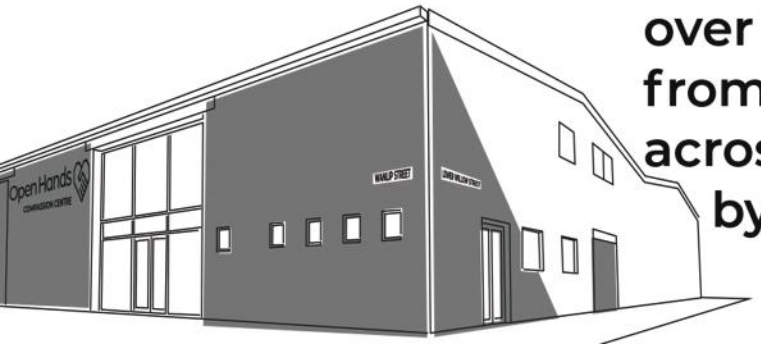
SO... WHAT'S NEXT?

Open Hands

A passion for the poor and those in need has been at the core of our church for many years. Open Hands was set up to demonstrate God's heart for the poor through loving action.

This year we celebrated our 20th birthday and we have been privileged to support thousands of individuals and families experiencing poverty, homelessness, displacement and social isolation. We have provided essential items, education, advice and support, chaplaincy, volunteering opportunities, and connections into the wider community. And it continues.

In 20 years we have seen around 300,000 visits to our Open Hands Compassion Centres. These beautiful people represent over 140 nations, and were referred to us from over 400 agencies and organisations across Leicester. All this has been supported by around 1,000 different volunteers!



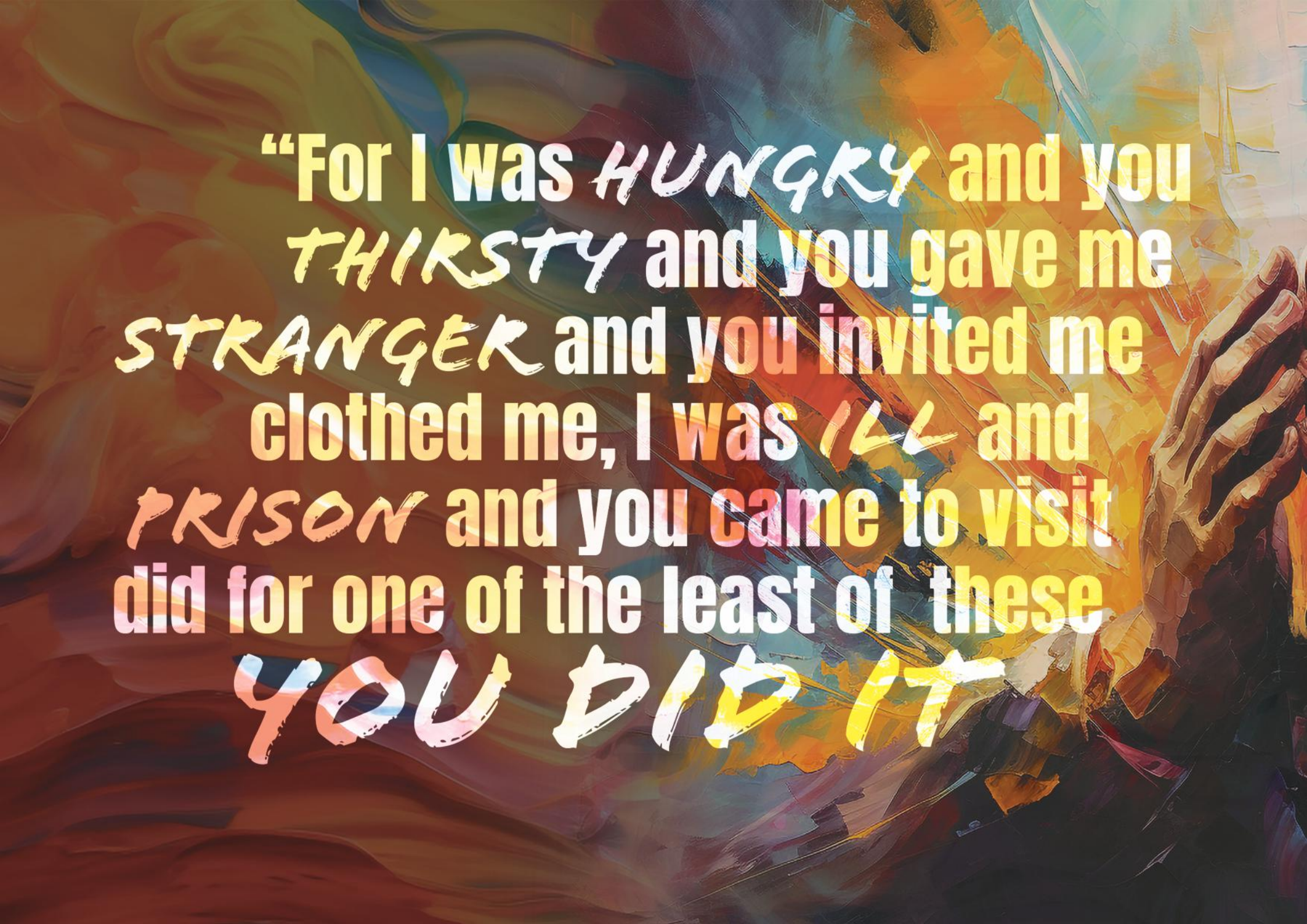
We believe that God is leading us to take a big step forward. It is the Father's heart for us to build a new permanent Compassion Centre for Leicester. A new Compassion Centre will provide purpose-designed facilities, improved accessibility and the space to grow. It will enable us to serve people more effectively and to continue demonstrating God's love across Leicestershire for generations to come.

One of Open Hands' largest referral partners, says: *"As more services across the UK move towards digital-first access, many of the people we support face increasing barriers to getting the help they need... A new Compassion Centre has the potential to become a vital community hub that will make a lasting difference to thousands of people for years to come."* - Eric, British Red Cross.

On completion of the building, all of Open Hands' services will move from our current leased centre in St Matthew's to No 12. We will also have space to develop additional ministries.

Open Hands
Compassion Centre
St Matthews

Number 12
Frog Island
Prepared and ready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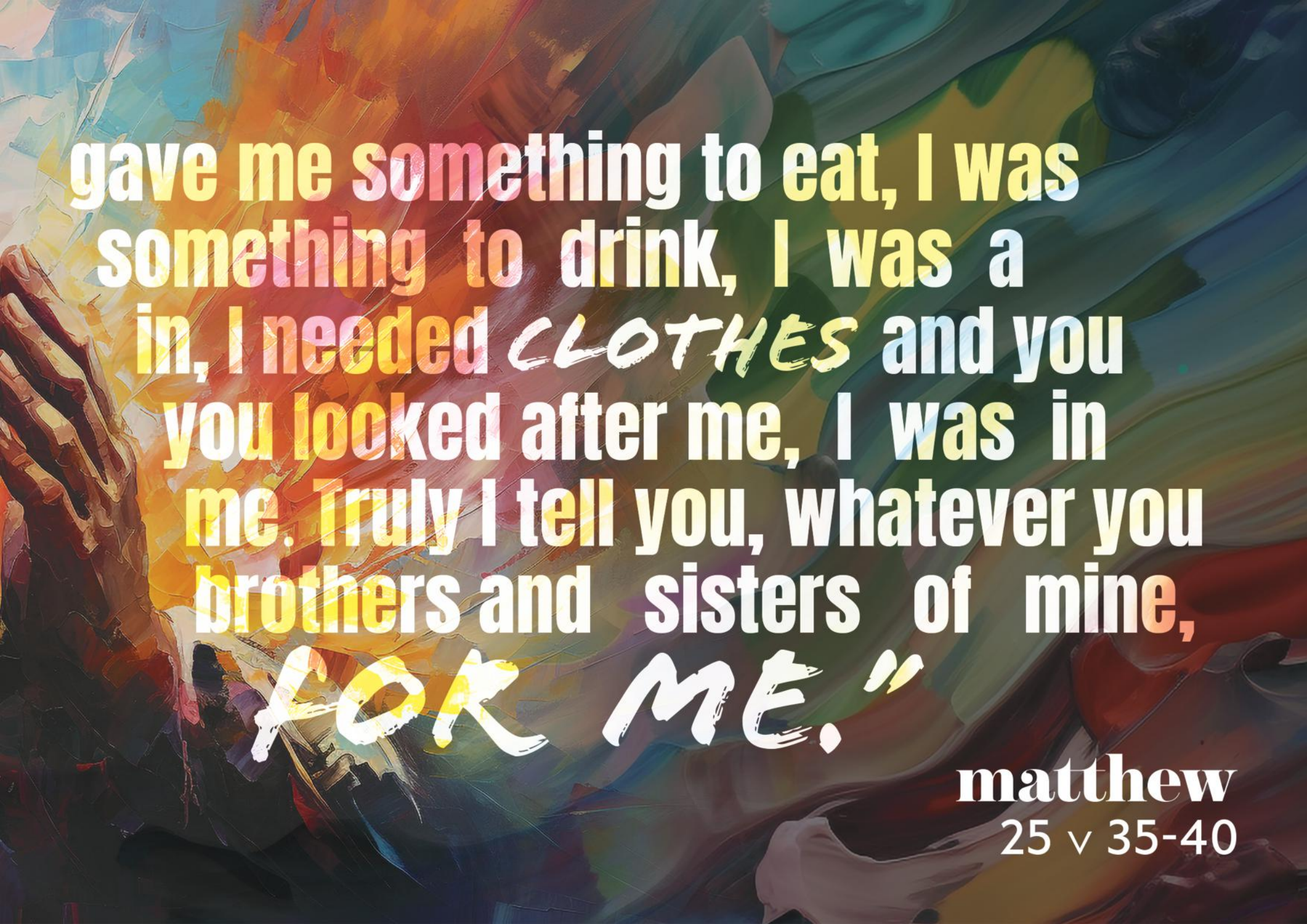
did for one of the least of these
YOU DID IT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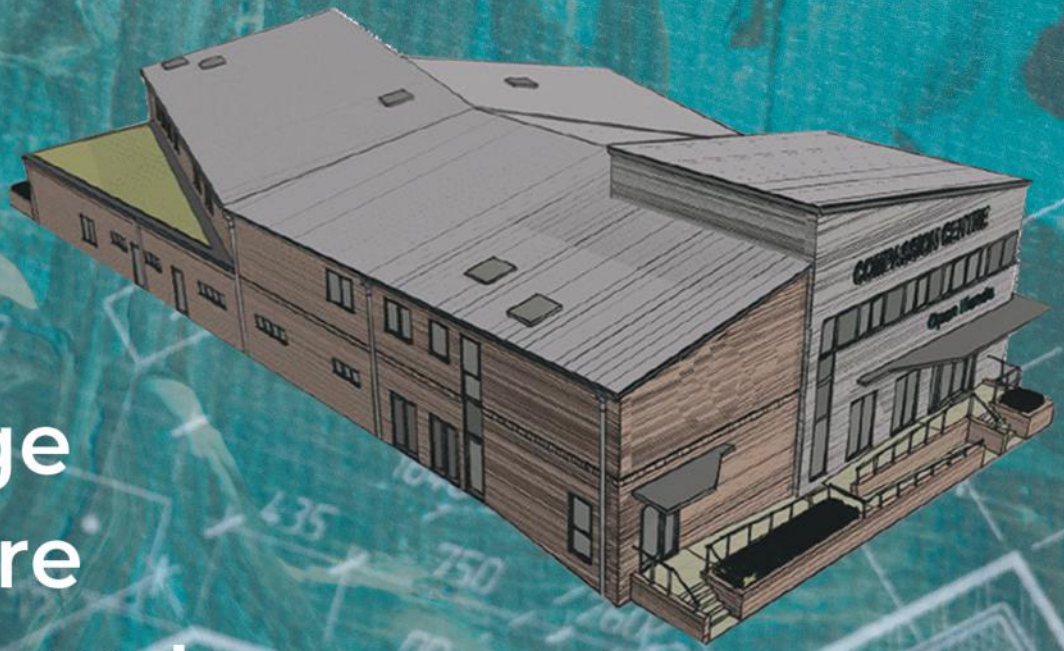
FOR ME."
matthew
25 v 35-40

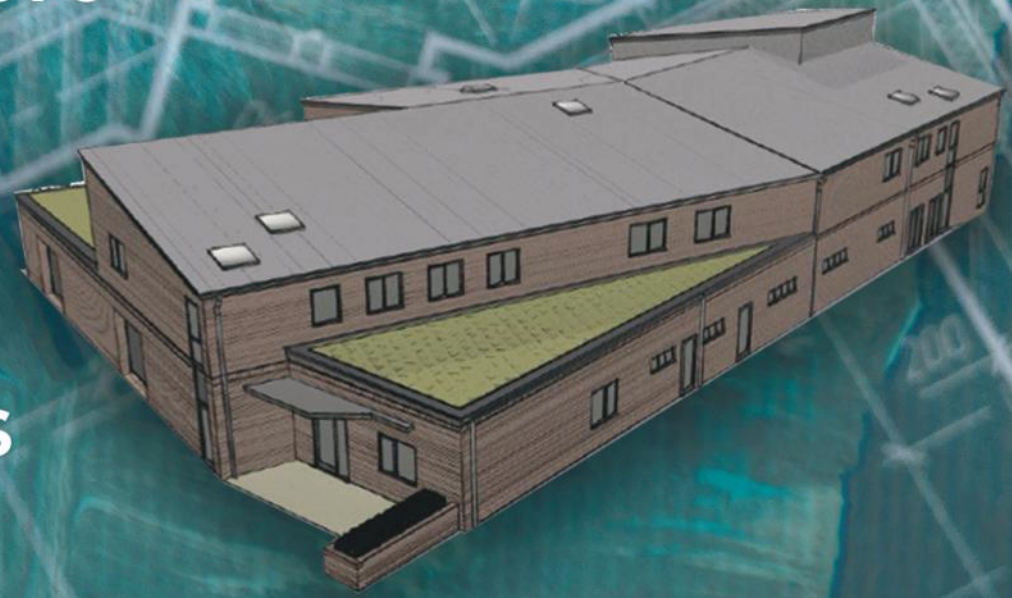
new compassion centre

drawings for planning_ jul26

WHY BUILD?

FOR MErcy shown
FOR MEals served
FOR MEeting needs
FOR MEaningful change
FOR MEntoring and care
FOR MEntal health support
FOR MEssages of hope
FOR MEnding furniture
FOR MEasurable impact
FOR MEetings with Jesus
"FOR ME"





Open Hands

PROJECT COST: £5MILLION

Architect Estimate, Jul26

Our current plans, including planning applications and professional fees, will cost around £5 million. This is an exciting step of faith, and with God nothing is impossible.

HOW WILL WE RAISE £5 MILLION?

WE GIVE

Join us by prayerfully considering what you can give as part of our Vision Offering. 90% of everything given will go towards the new Compassion Centre, with 10% being invested into mission and reaching lost people.

WE INVITE OTHERS TO GIVE

Because this new Centre will be for anyone who has need, we feel it is appropriate to give others the opportunity to invest in this amazing vision. There are two ways that you can be involved in this:

DIRECT CONNECTIONS - Personally share the vision with friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and invite them to consider partnering with us to build the new Compassion Centre.

WIDER CONNECTIONS - Share with us the details of wider connections you may have outside your personal network and we will connect with them with your permission.

We have created resources to help you to do this. Visit our dedicated building project website to access more resources with the information you need and to fill in a connection form

www.building-together.co.uk

OPEN HANDS WIDER SUPPORTERS

We are inviting our current Open Hands supporters, partner churches and organisations to join us in giving and supporting this vision.

GRANTS

We are actively pursuing grants from charitable trusts, foundations and other organisations with a shared mission.

BORROWING

As a final step, we are exploring borrowing options to help to complete the project if required.

AS WE PREPARE, WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO DO 4 THINGS

1 SAY THANK YOU

Please pause and thank the Father for all His blessings on your life. We then invite you to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in your response.

2 CHECK YOUR REGULAR GIVING

Every part of One Church flows from the generous giving of the people. Through every tithe and offering, given in person or online, we are able to outwork the One Church Vision across all sites, ministries and around Leicestershire.

We are inviting everyone to check that their regular giving is up to date and in place. Whether you are adjusting your giving, beginning to give or preparing to give, thank you.

A Standing Order is a practical way of enabling regular and faithful giving. To set one up, use the details found online and if you need help, please ask.
www.onechurch.org.uk/giving

3

BRING A VISION OFFERING/PLEDGE

On Sunday Nov 1st we will have a special One Church 'Vision Sunday'. We are simply inviting you as an individual or as a family to come before God over the next few weeks with an open heart and to ask Him what He wants you to give and to pledge, and then to have the faith to step out and obey.

If you give regularly into One Church we would ask you not to divert your regular giving to the Vision Offering, but rather to prayerfully consider giving a special offering over and above as you are led...

We are all invited to give in two main ways:

* ***a sacrificial one off gift*** on the day
* ***a faith pledge*** to be redeemed over a period of 12 months.

4

1ST NOVEMBER 2026

Please do all you can to be at one of the two Vision Sunday gatherings at the One Centre, during which we will bring our gifts and pledges. We will announce the total the following Sunday.

On Vision Sunday itself you will be encouraged to use the Giving/Faith Pledge card. You will also be able to fill this in online from the last week of October.

Every penny is precious and deeply valued by us and Jesus.

GIFT AID

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Gift Aid is a UK government scheme that allows charities to claim an **extra 25p for every £1 you donate**, at no extra cost to you. To qualify, you must be a UK taxpayer and make a Gift Aid declaration to the charity, confirming that you have paid enough tax to cover the amount being claimed. This means if you donate £100, One Church receives £125. It's a simple way to **make your donations go further** and make an even greater difference.

If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to **increase your giving by 25%** in this way, please access the online form by using the link or scanning the QR code.

If you **complete a declaration** now we can claim historical Gift Aid for up to four previous years of giving at One Church. If you haven't been a taxpayer for that length of time just let us know what period you would like us to claim for.

Thank you so much, and as ever if we can answer any financial questions or help you understand further, please email us.

https://rb.gy/o5xe5h

Sarah Hickman | **Finance Manager** | sarah.hickman@onechurch.org.uk

Phil John | **Trustee** | phil.john@onechurch.org.uk

QUESTIONS (1)

HOW ARE OUR OVERALL FINANCES?

2025 was another very strong year of giving in One Church with a total income of £1,574,313 against an expenditure of £1,480,587. We are thankful for the blessing of our finances.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT?

Following the submission of our building pre-application, we will continue working closely with architects, consultants and Leicester City Council to develop the plans for our new Compassion Centre.
Over the coming months, we will complete the necessary surveys and prepare our full planning application. Once planning permission has been secured and sufficient funding is in place, we look forward to beginning construction of the new Compassion Centre.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE NEW COMPASSION CENTRE?

The Compassion Centre will be a place of welcome, hope and community. It will provide practical support for people experiencing poverty and hardship, alongside English classes, advice and guidance, counselling, a prayer room, community activities, a new home for the Leicester Deaf Centre, and space for church ministry.

Inspired by the Biblical themes of Hesed, Mishpat, Tsedakah and Shalom, our prayer is that it will be a place where people experience love, justice, restoration and flourishing.

QUESTIONS (2)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CURRENT COMPASSION CENTRE?

We currently rent our centre in St Matthews. When the time comes to move, our hope is that another charity with a similar mission will take on the lease of the building and continue to serve the community and bless our city.

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO RAISE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUILD?

We are taking a phased and responsible approach to funding the project through giving, grants, partnerships and, if necessary, borrowing. If we have not raised enough to begin construction, we will continue fundraising until we are in a position to move forward. We are committed to, and expecting, the project to proceed. However, in the very unlikely situation that we are ultimately unable to do so, the trustees will explore all options and decide how best to honour the purpose for which the gifts were given. We will write to everyone who has made a known gift to explain.

WHAT IF I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE?

We understand everyone is in a different position financially.

Firstly, even if you have nothing to give, please join us on Nov 1st and simply bring your life to God again and stand with us in prayer.

Secondly, between now and November, ask the Father to bless you with 'five loaves and two fish' that come to you from an unexpected source. May God provide something you can bring for Him to multiply, and may we bring it to Him like the disciples did (Matthew 14:18), and may Jesus perform a miracle.

A PRAYER

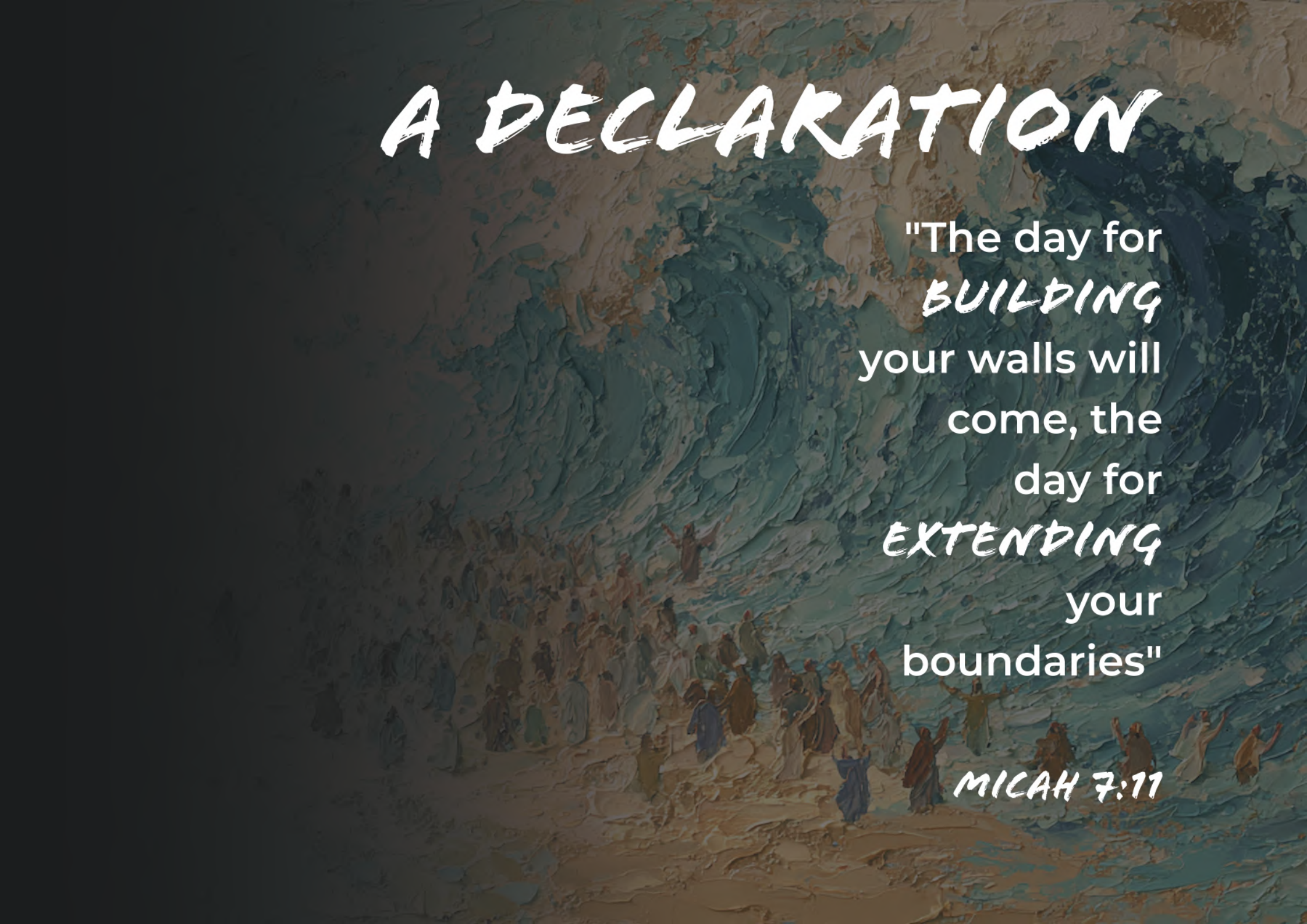
Heavenly Father,
You are the God of compassion, whose nature is always to have mercy. We thank you for the love and grace that you have shown us as a church this past year. We thank you for your provision, your favour and your faithfulness.

As we stand at the doorway of a new opportunity, we ask you, Good Shepherd, to go ahead of us. You say in your Word that unless ***you*** build the house, we labour in vain. So Lord, build the house, build this new centre and build us together as your people.

Father, please help each of us to do our part, help us to hear from you and to bring our sacrificial gifts joyfully. And connect us with those who you want us to inspire to be part of this vision.

We proclaim that our city and county belong to you. We thank you for the privilege of building for the future and for your kingdom.
All the glory is yours.
Jesus is Lord!

AMEN


A DECLARATION
"The day for
BUILDING
your walls will
come, the
day for
EXTENDING
your
boundaries"
MICAH 7:11

Charity Number: 1170291

One Church 10 Frog Island Leicester LE3 5AG

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