



# VISION



**STRENGTHENING**

2023 / 2024

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**“THIS IS THE LORD’S  
DOING, AND IT IS  
WONDERFUL  
TO SEE.”**

**PSALM 118:23**





2023 has been a truly remarkable year in the life of One Church Leicester. Following the largest offering in our history we set off on a 9 month renovation of the One Centre on Frog Island. In a time of change across our 5 sites, there has been an amazing spirit of unity and willingness among us as we set out on the journey of faith.

Together with savings, borrowings and the sale of some of our assets in the city, we were able to finish this 2 million pound renovation. Over the weekend of September 9th/10th we opened our new centre with great celebration. Our cry was simply "see what the Lord has done!"

In 2023, alongside our building developments, we continued to reach people through the ministries of the house:

\* Our amazing Open Hands Compassion Centre for the City had a full year serving many people in need.

\* All of our One Church sites thrived as people were reached for Jesus and grew in faith, with many added and impacted.

\* Our children's work reached thousands of children through its many ministries

\* Our youth and young adults work had a year of dynamic and exciting growth.

\* We continued to support our 18 mission projects, people and partners.

This has been a year of the favour of the Lord. This is a momentous season for us. We see blessing everywhere and already the One Centre is thriving with life.

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We now stand at a door of an opportunity to strengthen our ministries, to further expand our outreach and to strengthen the financial base of One Church together. We believe it is God's heart for us come again and bring a Vision Offering for the strengthening of the house.

In this booklet you will find out the details of our 2024 Vision Offering, what we are going to do, how we are believing to do it and the vital part you can play.

We are in this together,

*David Susan*

David and Susan Hind  
Senior Leaders, One Church



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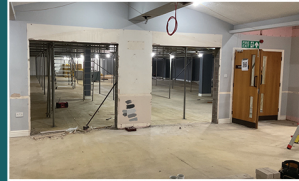
## JANUARY



## FEBRUARY



## MARCH



## APRIL



# A NEW DAY IS ON

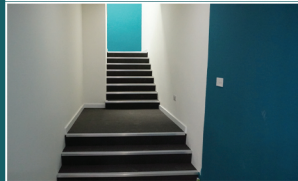
MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

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THE HORIZON...



# OPENING WEEKEND





# 9TH-10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

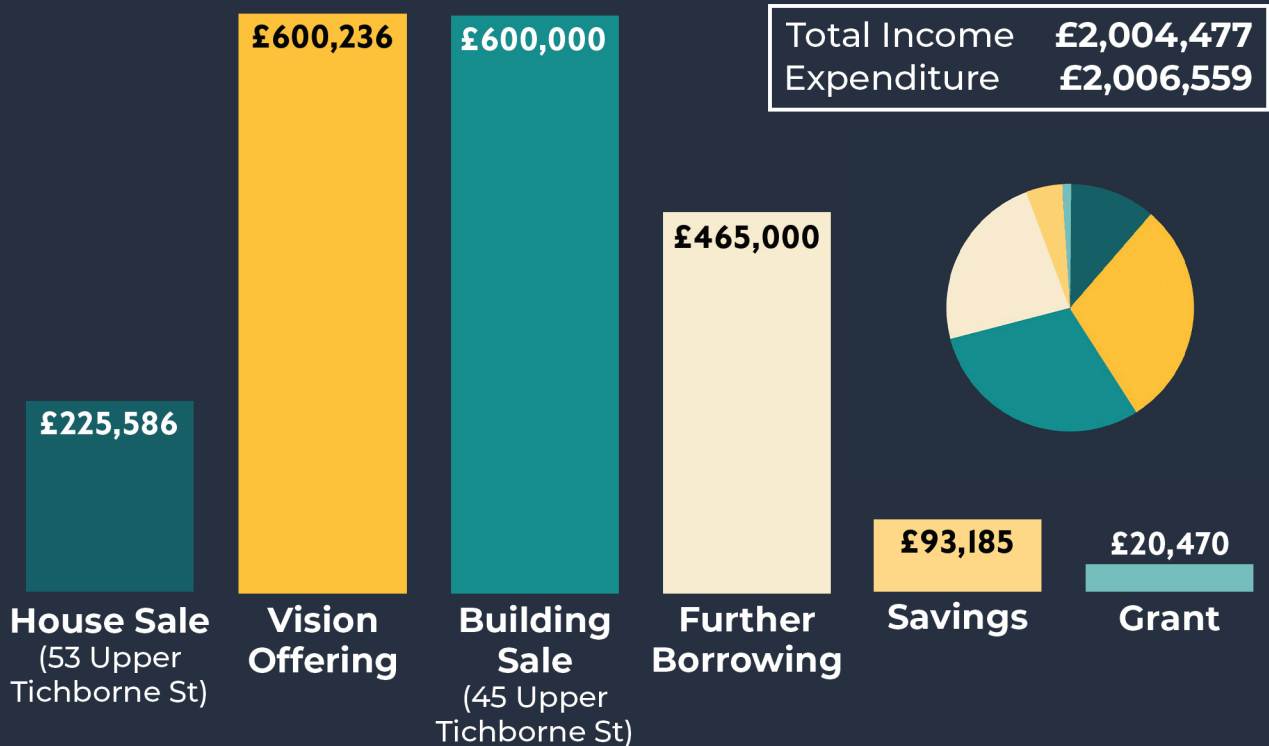
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## HOW WAS THE BUILDING PAID FOR?

The renovation of the One Centre, 10 Frog Island, has been a miracle. God has orchestrated so many things that have allowed this project not just to begin, but to be completed:



## TESTIMONIES PT.I //

I recently gave towards the Vision fund for the building renovation. About an hour later, I found out that teachers had been awarded a pay rise! This news probably came out at the exact time of my giving... a coincidence? I very much prefer to think not!

I didn't use up my holidays at work in March and the policy is that you lose them- you can't carry over and no cash equivalent is given. This was a great blow because I had accrued a good number but never got round to using them all up. I remember asking the manager and she told me the policy but then she said I will look into it and see what I can do. I prayed and asked God for favour with my employer and I promised Him that I would pay off my vision offering pledge with that money. A week or so later I received an email saying that they had considered my request and had decided to grant me my holiday entitlement in cash! As I was praying I felt a nudge to honour my promise to God and I immediately made the transfer.

During the giving service, God asked me to give a large sum in one go. I asked God if he was sure.. of course he was! I gave it and trusted the Lord. Since then and over the last 6 months or so God has provided me with more work in another area I enjoy, which allows me to pick and choose when I work, allowing me to choose my workload, protect my mental health more as well as increasing my finances! It's a small reminder that God always provides and cares for the work we do and the finances we have.

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## TESTIMONIES PT. 2

We have been praying for and looking to God for something for the last couple of years and we knew that we might get to a point where it may not happen without a financial cost of many thousands of pounds. When it came to praying about the vision offering I felt strongly that God was asking me to give the amount we had set aside for that “just in case spend”. I looked up the cost and it came to a certain amount of money. I then spoke to my husband and he explained that he had prayed about it and had an amount in mind that we should give. We both had exactly the same amount and felt a huge peace and joy as we came to give it. Earlier this year, God gave us the thing we had been asking for!

My wife and I had discussed and agreed what we would give to renovate and expand the One Centre. However, on the Sunday we felt that God encouraged us to give a little more so we gave gladly that day. The next day, I got paid for the month and had received an unexpected additional amount on top of my normal salary. It was almost exactly what we had given the day before. I showed my wife and we were convinced that it was too much to just be a coincidence; I'd been in my role for many months at this point, there were no company bonuses at this time, I hadn't received a pay rise. It just said 'arrears'. We had truly been blessed by God and gave the additional money to the One Centre renovations.

## TESTIMONIES PT.3 13

I've only been able to give a very small amount each month but I can testify that during the time I've given and will continue to give, God had met my every need,

Soon after the final payment of my pledge the Lord has given me a year's worth of financial provision in the 3 months since. Better than that is the deeper revelations of Himself and the blessed assurance of His keeping and provision if I continue to walk in obedience. Praise Him! Approaching the vision offering I felt God call me to give an exact figure of finance. The amount was equivalent to what I was planning on saving towards a new car, so was a faith stretching amount... After putting in my pledge I trusted God knew what He was doing. A few days after Vision Sunday, a family member who hadn't known about the pledge, gave me an unexpected gift that they told me was towards a new car. The amount was almost exactly the same as the pledge! God knows what we need.

Psalm 121 - 'Where does my help come from, my help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth'. Always a pleasure to serve the Lord, He knows our needs before we do. After pledging I received a tax refund, God is Good all the time, and all the time God is Good. He will not let your foot slip. He watches over you!

And now...

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**“ENLARGE THE PLACE OF YOUR TENT,  
DO NOT HOLD BACK;  
STRENGTHEN YOUR STAKES.  
RIGHT AND TO THE LEFT;  
DISPOSSESS NATIONS  
DESOLATE CITIES.”**



STRETCH YOUR TENT CURTAINS WIDE  
LENGTHEN YOUR CORDS,  
FOR YOU WILL SPREAD OUT TO THE  
YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL  
AND SETTLE IN THEIR

ISAIAH 54:2-3



## STRENGTHEN SITES

We believe it is time to plant again. We have been looking at towns around Leicestershire over 20,000 people and feel we should plant **One Church Loughborough**. Along with other churches in the area, our heart is to reach prodigals and people currently not in church. If you want to be a part of this adventure, there is room on the launch team.

## STRENGTHEN OPEN HANDS

Open Hands is our compassion ministry in Leicester. It has now established in the new centre and continues to give help, love and support to 100s of people in need every single week. We know it's time to **invest** more in the structure, ministries, foundations and staff of Open Hands to enable it to keep going from strength to strength.

## STRENGTHEN PLANS FOR NO.12

We own another brilliant property - 12 Frog Island. This is the current home of the Leicester Deaf Centre and a number of other ministries and initiatives. We will take time this year to look at every possibility and idea for **what to do next** in No.12, returning to the church with clear designs and plans for next steps.

## STRENGTHEN CITY-WIDE IMPACT

We are committed to serving the wider Church family and are privileged to lead **'United'** - a growing group of Leicestershire churches who walk together in unity. Along with all that is done with prayer, leaders, kids, youth and young adults, we will be hosting the first United Mission in January 2024 with J.John. We love His Church.



## **STRENGTHEN BUILDINGS**

God has blessed us with great buildings and premises. There are ongoing costs to upkeep and develop the One Centre, No.12, the Oak Centre and the Open Hands Compassion Centre. We will continue to improve and maintain each building, so they function as needed and bless many lives. We will also aim to save an amount to develop any future buildings God may give to us.

## **STRENGTHEN MORTGAGE**

Our mortgage as a church is currently £900,000. This is made up of £435,000 of existing borrowings (from the purchase of No.12 and part of the car park), along with the £465,000 of new borrowings used to develop the One Centre. We want to start to pay down this mortgage, which will reduce the ongoing cost of monthly payments.

## **STRENGTHEN RESERVES**

Over the last 18 months we have strengthened many of the financial aspects of One Church. For us to become an even more robust charity, it is advised to have a 3 month buffer to pay our budget in any circumstance. Our reserves are currently £84,000, with the advice being to increase this to ~£156,000.



**1** STRENGTHEN SITES

**2** STRENGTHEN OPEN HANDS

**3** STRENGTHEN PLANS FOR NO.12

**4** STRENGTHEN CITY-WIDE IMPACT

**5** STRENGTHEN BUILDINGS

**6** STRENGTHEN MORTGAGE

**7** STRENGTHEN RESERVES



## 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 standing order, tithe and offering, we are able to outwork the One Church vision across all sites 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 enabling regular and faithful giving. To set one up, use the details found online and if you need any help, please ask.

[onechurch.org.uk/giving](https://onechurch.org.uk/giving)

## 3. BRING A VISION OFFERING / PLEDGE

On Sunday 12th November, 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 months with an open heart and to ask Him what He wants you to give, 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 lead.

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

## ON THE DAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

Please do all you can to be at one of the **two Vision Sunday services** at the One Centre, during which we will bring our gifts and pledges and then announce and celebrate what has been given!

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 Nov 1st too.

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

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## QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

### **Did the building development work as you expected?**

The months of building were relatively stress free with few complications. Due to increased costs and a few additions we made during the process, the overall cost was around £150,000 more than we originally planned. We had a contingency in place and so were able to finish the project on time.

### **What are your reflections on the Vision Offering in Nov 2022?**

Last year's Vision Offering was a breakthrough moment in our church. The redemption of faith pledges has been remarkable and the many stories of people trusting God and being blessed has been so powerful. It was a time that expanded our faith and showed the power of us giving together as a whole church.

### **Why are we having a Vision Offering again?**

We believe that the Vision Offering was and will be an expansion of our faith. It is an opportunity to encounter God so that our faith can go to another level. The 2023/24 Vision Offering is an opportunity to listen, do what He says and build His house first together. And our heart is not just to build once, but to build and strengthen continually as a house.

## **What will happen to No.12 in the next 12 months?**

No.12 Frog Island houses an amazing work with our deaf community and a community room used by One Church, alongside a number of outside hires, groups and initiatives. No.12 will continue to be used in full, while we go on the exciting process of looking at next steps for the building.

## **How are our overall finances?**

The last two years have been a time of development and expansion. Our income has increased beyond a million pounds a year, we have had our first audit, and we are adding extra safeguards and systems in our finances. We expect to finish 2023 with a small surplus. We are thankful for the blessing on our finances and now focus on further strengthening.

## **Can I give to a specific area of the vision?**

Yes you can and if you would like to know further details for each area please ask. However, it is really helpful if many of us give to the whole, allowing resources to be allocated where they are most needed.

## **How much of the mortgage are we hoping to pay off?**

The repayments on our mortgage are budgeted. However, every £100,000 we pay down reduces the repayments and directs more available income into ministries and outreach. It would be our heart to have no borrowings.

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# PRAYER

## A PRAYER

Father, as we start this new season, we stop to say thank you.

You have always been faithful, and we have always had the people, premises and provision for the vision you have given us. You are Jehovah Jireh - the Lord, our Provider.

As we seek to honour you in our vision and in developing the buildings you have blessed us with, we thank you that you are with us and you go ahead of us.

We declare that this is all about loving you and loving people and creating space for people to find you.

We pray that you will help each of us to do our part and we give you all we have. Help us to hear from you individually and as families and to bring our gifts joyfully.

We bless every church in Leicestershire and every leader and we proclaim that our city and county belong to you and Jesus is Lord!



A photograph of a church service. In the background, a band is performing on a stage. A man in a blue cap is singing into a microphone. Other band members are visible behind him. In the foreground, the silhouettes of the congregation are visible, with some people raising their hands in worship. The word "AMEN" is overlaid in large, white, outlined letters across the center of the image. The first "AMEN" is solid white, while the second "AMEN" is outlined.

**AMEN** AMEN



**“I PRAY THAT FROM HIS GLORIOUS,  
UNLIMITED RESOURCES HE WILL EMPOWER  
YOU WITH INNER STRENGTH THROUGH HIS  
SPIRIT. THEN CHRIST WILL MAKE HIS HOME  
IN YOUR HEARTS AS YOU TRUST IN HIM.  
YOUR ROOTS WILL GROW DOWN INTO  
GOD’S LOVE AND KEEP YOU STRONG.”**

**EPHESIANS 3:16-17**



