

November 10, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Lessons from 2nd Thessalonians

One of the lessons from our Fall sermon series, is that in a busy world, under pressure, it is still possible for a church to thrive.

Writing about the Thessalonian church, Paul describes their generosity and their joy saying “they gave themselves first to the Lord” (2 Cor. 8:5) and as a result experienced what he called “cheer” (2 Cor. 8:7).

‘Cheer’ or ‘cheerful’ is a funny word. The Greek is *hilaros*. Like our word hilarious, it’s a grace-filled, light-hearted word but it’s also linked to the idea of fostering intimacy and generating zeal to get on and do something. The old English word ‘alacrity’ would be a good translation - if anyone knew what it meant!

It’s amazing to think of a poor church giving money away yet finding their lives enriched, and a pressurized church, taking their faith seriously, yet finding freedom, intimacy, energy, and even fun.

Applied to Our Church

Like them, we have a gospel message that our region needs to hear and a unique resource in the heart of this village’s life (the building and the body of people who worship here). The vestry needs your help now, not just to run the church that we have, but, to fund our recent growth and prepare us for even more cheerful things to come.

How Much Should I Give?

If you personally are feeling a lack of cheer, it would be wise to assess your giving, if only to eliminate the possibility that it could be a part of the cause.

We don’t set a rule, but giving something in the region of 10% of your income is a helpful guide to which the pastoral staff, vestry, and prayer ministry teams all subscribe.

Giving cannot perfect your soul, only the grace of the gospel can do that, but very low giving is a warning sign that you might be giving yourself first to something other than the Lord.

Whatever you decide, as you weigh up what you would like to give in 2025, please read the brochure, and let us know what you intend to do.

Yours in Christ,



Rev’d Alex
Rector