**HOLY SAVIOUR, BITTERNE BIBLE STUDY – WEEK BEGINNING JULY 19th**

**PHILIPPIANS 1.12-26 – A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH**

*Paul is writing from prison, yet he is not downhearted. His imprisonment is providing the opportunity for him and others to preach about Jesus. The death sentence is a possibility and Paul sees that as the gateway to a fuller life with Jesus. On the other hand Paul sees that there are still plenty of opportunities for ministry now and a life lived with and for Jesus. Whatever happens life centres on Jesus!* ***As usual you may find it helpful to jot down your thoughts about the questions in the spaces provided*** *–* ***and it would be really good to share them with others.*** *Phone, Skype, email some members of your homegroup or a friend and/or email me your thoughts (* brianparfitt@btinternet.com *).* ***Brian Parfitt***

What makes life worth living as far as you are concerned – work? sport? family? hobbies? home? or ???? What have you missed during ‘lockdown’? What have you found particularly challenging? How does your relationship with God play a part in a ‘life worth living’?

**READ Philippians 1.12-26.**

**A PRISONER (verses 12-14)**

What difficult situation was Paul enduring? How did he view his imprisonment? What was giving him encouragement?

***How can the difficult situations we face present positive opportunities for our Christian growth and our witness?***

**PREACHING (verses 15-18)**

How did Paul react to others’ motives for sharing the good news? What mattered most to him? Why was that?

***How can Christians sometimes work and witness out of a partisan spirit? How can we be critical of the work being done by others? How does Paul’s example challenge such attitudes? How can we value other people’s ministry?***

**PASTORAL CONCERN (verses 19-26)**

Why did Paul hope that he would be set free? How did he want to help the Christians in Philippi (& elsewhere)?

***In what ways might you be able to support and encourage others in coming to faith and growing as Christians? What opportunities for serving do you have?***

**PRESSURES (verses 20-24)**

How is Paul being pulled in two different directions?

Why does he want to keep living?

Why is death an attractive option?

What is the important motivation that links the options of life and death?

***How can our hope of a future life with Christ encourage us when facing death and dying?***

***How can the fact that ‘for me to live is Christ’ keep us going when we face life’s challenges and opportunities?***