**HOLY SAVIOUR, BITTERNE BIBLE STUDY – WEEK BEGINNING JULY 12th**

**PHILIPPIANS 1.1-11 – KEEPING IN TOUCH**

*This week we begin looking at Paul’s letter to the church in Philippi. It’s a really encouraging letter. Paul had a close relationship with the Philippians. They were the only ones to regularly give him financial support. This letter encourages them in living for Christ and in working together for the Gospel. You can read how the church in Philippi was founded in Acts16.* ***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***

How do you keep in touch with friends you don’t often see? What keeps those relationships strong? How have you kept in touch with other church members during this crisis?

**READ Philippians 1.1-11.**

**PAUL**

What do you learn about Paul from these verses?

- How does he describe his role?

- What do you learn about his current circumstances?

- How would you describe his feelings for the Philippian Christians?

***Who are the church leaders whose support you have valued? How have they helped you?***

**THE PHILIPPIANS**

How are they described in verse 1? What does this verse tell us about the nature of church leadership in Philippi?

What does Paul give thanks for in verses 3-5 and verse 7?

What is the confidence about them which Paul expresses in verse 6?

***In what ways can you support and encourage others such as church leaders, members of your homegroup, missionaries and other Christians with whom you have a relationship?***

***How can Paul’s words in verse 6 give us confidence in our concern for fellow Christians?***

**THE PRAYER (verses 9-11)**

What would it mean for us to be growing

- in love?

- in knowledge?

- in depth of insight?

How is the outcome of such qualities described in verses 10 and 11?

***How might the answer to such a prayer be seen***

***- in your life?***

***- in the life of our church?***