**Study notes – 18th July 2021**

**Welcome** – Which event (national, international or personal) have you enjoyed most in recent times? Which one are you most looking forward to?

**Worship** - Read Philippians 2:1-11 and let it lead you into prayers of praise

**Word – God’s Mission and Ours (Hebrews 10:19-25)**

God’s mission is to draw all people to himself and he invites us, both collectively and individually to join him in this…

1. Beginning with deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ – everything else flows from this.
2. Continuing with our relationships with one another – meeting together, encouraging and spurring each other on.
3. Moving “out” to practice “love and good deeds” as a witness for Christ - wherever God has placed us.

**Questions (choose a few…)**

* How has your relationship with Jesus been these past 18 months? How has it grown? What challenges have you had to face? What have you learned…?
* What are God and you working on at the moment?
* What are some of the ways in which we may find that life, even post 19th July, is likely to involve ‘second-choice living’? What, as Christians, should be our attitude towards this?
* How can we demonstrate to others that, “with the full assurance that faith brings”, ‘second-choice living’ does not mean needing to accept second-best?
* “If you want to see revival outside the church, you have to have revival inside the church”… What might “revival inside the church” look like?
* How can we best meet together, encourage one another and spur each other on both at this time, and moving forwards?
* Do you agree that, as God’s people, who we are is more important than what we do?
* What do you think the people of New Malden would say if they were asked what the church is like?
* Is it more important for the purposes of God’s mission that the church “gathers”, or is “scattered”?
* Do you have a sense of what your particular part in God’s collective mission for his people might be? How can you best serve him where he has placed you? Seek to prayerfully encourage one another in this…

**Prayer**

* For all those affected by the severe recent flooding in Europe.
* For wisdom, discernment and a spirit of mutual encouragement for all leaders (nationally, internationally, church) as we move into a time of fewer restrictions but with continuing challenges.
* For children, teachers and parents as term comes to an end and the summer holiday break begins.
* For any you know who are unwell, isolating, vulnerable whether re COVID or for other reasons.
* For the NMBC All Age Service next Sunday and the joint services in August
* For a spirit of cooperation and a clear sense of direction for us as a church regarding what we do, and how we do it, in September and beyond.