**Thursday 28th May**

James 1: 2-4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

I’m sure we have all had the experience of longing for something to end. Who hasn’t sat in the dentist chair thinking ‘this will all be over in a few minutes – just hang in there!’? Sometimes there are whole seasons of life that feel like trial. Perhaps you are in one of those right now. Perhaps lockdown for you seems to be going on for so long, and you wonder how much more you can endure. In situations like that, we can find it hard to see any purpose. That’s when faith comes into play. We keep trusting that God is true to His word, that he is with us in every single situation – no exceptions – and that he can bring something good, even from this. God is an expert in recycling and repurposing! He takes times of trial and under his hand, something beautiful can result. Perseverance and faith produce maturity and contentment in the skilled hand of the Lord.

*Lord, we bring to you the trials that we are currently facing. Father, would you so grow our faith and trust in you, that even in the midst of trial we know joy, because we know that you can work something good and beautiful in our lives through those times. We pray for those who feel that this painful season is difficult to endure. Lord, we pray that you would strengthen them with the knowledge of your love and provide all that they need day by day. Amen*

