**Friday 24th July**

Colossians 1: 9, 10

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

My girls have done the first blackberry picking of the season! It seems that the hedgerows are producing an abundance of fruitfulness this year. It is so satisfying to see branches laden with fruit. As Christians we are called to live fruitful lives, and that is part of Paul’s emphasis in this prayer. During the last few months, we have looked together at a number of Paul’s prayers for the early believers – wow! I would love to be on Paul’s prayer list! He prayed magnificent prayers! Why not take a look at the rest of this prayer from Colossians 1: 9-14 today? It is wonderful! Again, Paul recognises that the Spirit of God gives wisdom. Without the Holy Spirit, we are unable to grasp the things of God. It is the Spirit who leads us into truth and brings us revelation. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to understand scripture. And that knowledge, wisdom and understanding inform how we should live. They are available in relationship with God. There is no formula or method, because it’s about friendship. As Jesus said, ‘if you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit’ (John 15: 5).

*Lord Jesus, thank you that you call me to be fruitful for you. We ask that just as fruit is appearing on trees and in hedgerows now, so that this year will be one of unprecedented fruitfulness in our lives. Lord, we long to know your more, and we pray that your Spirit will fill us with wisdom and understanding. Help us to prioritise and pursue our friendship with you in these days.*

*For your glory we pray. Amen*

