I remember the day I got married – 20 July 1985 in the Canterbury Methodist Church, UK.

Sharon was 20 minutes late, there was a thunderstorm during the reception, and Sharon had no appetite. That evening we had a quiet meal for two in a restaurant.

There Sharon and I made a covenant - an agreement between the two of us.
Other examples of covenants are mortgages, employment contracts and baptisms.

In Genesis 9.8-17 God makes a covenant with Noah. Unlike most covenants, which are often restricted to two people, this one is with not just Noah, Noah and his family, Jews, Christians, even humanity, but with *all* living things.

The rainbow is the sign. It shows God’s love for all creation.

Today we might question this love – Cyclone Gita which this week afflicted Tonga, 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, tsunami on Boxing Day 2004, never mind the growing problems of water food and fuel shortages.

The trouble is that we forget there is another partner – us. Humans have pumped CO2 into the atmosphere, over-populated the planet, etc.
God doesn’t promise to solve all our problems but to be with us in them.

Boys Brigade – we make a covenant with God, promises to nurture the boys. Sometimes the promise might feel overwhelming. We, like Noah, have a sign (anchor – Sure and Steadfast - Hebrews 6.19). The trouble is that we forget there is another partner - God. Do we think he has such a poor memory?

God’s covenantal love is demonstrated in Lent as we journey with Christ to the cross.

Lent comes from the word lencten = lengthen. In NZ in Lent days shorten instead – do we recall in half-light what God promised in the dark?