It seems only a few years ago we endured a hosepipe ban and were warned of dire consequences as the underground supplies of water were “at an all-time low”. Scientists explained that global warming meant not only warmer, drier summers, but also wetter winters – and that we were likely to have more extremes of weather. We were warned that we ought to start preparing soon – some even said that significant change was imminent. Most of us now realise that climate change poses a real risk to our planet, and recycling, energy efficient light bulbs, solar panels and wind turbines have become a way of life, a necessity.

We are no longer surprised by extreme weather events. Suddenly, not only are sea defences breached, rivers burst their banks and flood plains become…. flood plains! For most of us in East Sussex, heavy rain simply spoils our weekend walks or makes playing football or netball less pleasant! During the past week I love the fact that SportsReach provides an opportunity for the youngsters to both enjoy their sport, learn more about themselves and develop their ability to work as a team. Their skill levels at netball or football are improved and they also learn so much more about the Christian faith. In these relatively modern things, eternal truths can be found.

If you follow the news closely you may have come across a recent article which said that the Biblical story of Noah’s Ark can also be found in old Babylonian writings – although I don’t think the lead character was called Noah! In the ancient world there must have been a really serious and catastrophic flood of such proportions that it destroyed the world as it had been known. News of that event stayed in the minds of the survivors for centuries, told and retold until the day it was written down. If you want to read the account for yourself, look in Genesis starting in chapter 6. At the end, when Noah, his family and all the animals are safely back on dry land, there is a rainbow in the sky. God says that the rainbow is the sign of an everlasting covenant between Himself and all living creatures, that never again will there be such a flood to destroy all the earth.

I like that. The fact that there can be an everlasting promise – one that will never be broken. There is so much to learn from these Old Testament stories which speak truth to us today. In the news this week there has continued to be controversy, and public figures have been accused of not keeping their promises. I don’t think society expects people to keep even the most serious of promises nowadays. But one reason that the Bible will always stand the test of time is that it is full of God’s promises. And they will never fail.

