



During this time of the coronavirus, rainbows have been popping up everywhere. Paintings stuck in the windows of people's homes, rainbows chalked on the pavement and flown on flags supporting our NHS. Musicians performing 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' from their doorsteps or balconies, choirs singing 'Who put the Colours in the Rainbow' and taking 'chase the rainbow' walks.

What is the meaning or symbolism of the rainbow?

In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, we can read the story of Noah and the great flood. At the end of the story God says 'I am putting my bow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world'. *Genesis 9:13*.

So, what is a *covenant*?

The word means agreement or promise. In the Bible we hear that God has made a promise with the people. God said, 'This rainbow is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come'. God told Noah, 'Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth'. So, in God's promise we have hope. Hope that in difficult times we can be sure of God's love for us. When bad and sad things happen, we have the rainbow to remind us that God is with us. That God loves us. That God loves everyone.



Activities you could explore:

- Read the story of Noah in the Bible – Genesis chapter 9.
- Paint or colour a rainbow for your window or for a neighbour.
- Draw a picture of a rainbow in the sky, may be the scene outside of your window or a scene from a window anywhere in the world.
- Write an acrostic poem for the word rainbow

Lord of promises,

We pray that just like the rainbows we create and see around us, you will care for us all so that we have hope for the future. **Amen**