

**CONNECTION, definition: - a link or relationship - the action of linking one thing with another.**

*Hello everyone, I'm imagining speaking this message to you from inside our beloved All Saints church, with all your familiar faces facing me. Indulge me! It's my way of feeling 'connected'.*

*I hope you're all as well as can be in these strange, unsettling times. Not one single person is unaffected. Whether you're isolating, socially distancing, living alone or with family or friends, whatever, being 'connected' is more important than ever. One thing for sure is that our phones, mobiles, laptops, TVs & radios have never been so busy, or welcome, in our link with other humans. Chats seem more precious than ever, to interact with another person, bliss! I really appreciate, and need, face to face connections, to share laughs, smiles and maybe a tear, (don't even mention grabbing someone in a good old 'bear hug'- that is for later!!).*

*Connecting to our Lord is also, not only needed, but vital. I have to admit there have been times when I have found this difficult. In my 'low' times, when things become just too overwhelming - I can share this because I know that I am not alone, it's not just me. I could ramble on for hours, listing my blessings, of which there are many, praise God! But then there is so much pain, suffering and sadness 'out there' and the feeling of helplessness, a conflict of emotions sends me, I don't know about you, into a confused state of physical activities, baking, puzzle solving, Joe Wickes workouts etc. - smattered with moments of lethargy and weeping! You get the picture!!*

*'We have this hope, in God, as an anchor for our lives - safe and secure.'* (Hebrews 6:19)

*One advantage, if you like, of this lockdown, is the choice of ways to worship and be connected to God our Father. Examples can be found on the weekly news sheets and people are finding their own favourite and varied options on how to feed their spiritual appetite. I listen regularly to a Methodist minister with Darfield connections, via Facebook 'live streaming'! This week I picked up the theme of God being our anchor, it spoke so much to me that I thought I'd share a little of it. You know the old hymn, the chorus of which is "We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll...." - it's not one of my particular favourites, I don't find myself humming it, but its meaning was made clear to me. It really struck home. We are confident that God, as a ship's anchor holding firmly to the sea bed, is immovable. His truth is unchangeable, His promise unchanging and trustworthy. If we are to remain connected to God, our anchor, we need to keep the rope/chain connection strong. There's absolutely no point sitting in a sound and sea worthy boat, dropping the strong anchor and not having a rope joining one with the other...we would simply drift away! Aimless! This is what we are in danger of doing if we don't keep that 'connecting rope' to God. That rope is The Word, Jesus. The truth that we find in the Bible. Keep that spiritual rope connected and strong.*

*And so I encourage you to walk with Jesus, grab hold of his hand, continue with your bible notes, readings and tune in, 'zoom' in. Above all pray! Pray in your own way, silently, out loud, formally, in chats, in tears. Organise your prayers into how you can 'connect' with God, as His beloved child. Then you will most certainly feel His love and protection in these difficult times - and forever more. Hallelujah!*

*With love and prayers, Sue Lee x*