

## Thought for the day – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021

### Protection – Revd Kit Gunasekera

Listening and watching Harry and Megan's interview with Oprah, I was struck when Megan spoke about a photo, which shows the time when Harry held her hand tightly at an event at the Royal Albert Hall, when previously that day she had confided in him, that she didn't want to be alive any more. She speaks how tightly he held her hand, and how protected she felt, and the grip was so tight that his knuckles went white.

I was reminded of the powerful sermon bishop Micheal Curry preached at their wedding, and it was all about love.

1 Corinthians 13:7 says - Love always protects.

This instinct to protect the ones we love, is in all of us. It is the image of God in us. The bible says that God protects us in the midst of temptation, in the face of evil, keeping us with God, to name but a few. He holds our hands so to tightly, that his knuckles turn, not white, but red, on the cross.

God's protection is a complex issue though. How do we understand this when we think about Sarah Everard, (missing since last Wednesday and last seen, in the border of our parish) and her loved ones who are anxious for her? Or in the case of the funeral of a person I will be taking this week, who was murdered? Its difficult to answer that. God loves both people as much as He loves everyone else. Does God both protect and not protect at the same time? Sometimes that might make sense, most of the time it does not, and the only answer we have is this.

Despite this, with all our questions and uncertainty, we can throw our selves on the protection of God. God is love, and so according to 1 Corinthians 13:7, God always protects, even when it seems like He does not. The words of Proverbs come to mind -

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight."  
- Proverbs 3:5-6

How do you understand God's protection of you, and your loved ones?