



St Bartholomew's Church,



Chaplaincy Report for the Archdeaconry Synod 2018

'In God have I put my trust.' Psalm 56 v4 (AV)

My twelfth year as Priest-in-charge here; my eleventh report for our Archdeaconry Synod; the verse above, the text for my sermon on Low Sunday. And my question this year: 'Do we, can we, here at St Bart's, Dinard, take the words of the psalmist to heart and trust in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?'

Yes we can if the past is to be believed. Our church was founded in 1871 and in three year's time, we will celebrate 150 years since our foundation. Our church established in La Belle Époque has flourished and outlasted two of the three Casinos on La Plage de L'Ecluse and many folk here in Brittany have found a place in St Bartholomew's where they feel able to worship and to be part of our Christian community.

Yes we can and do if the present is to be believed. Services continue to be well attended with around 40/50 in winter and around 100 in the season. There were around 200 at the Easter morning eucharist this year and for the Christmas Carol service last December, the church was again packed – standing room only. Baptisms, weddings and funerals in French as well as in English are frequently conducted here.

And the future ? Who knows what is round the corner, how long I may continue to serve as Priest-in-charge here and whether our congregation will continue attract folk to replace those who will return to the UK or necessarily leave to go on to a higher place ? God-willing, we can and that the seeds sown through our warmth of welcome and openness will, in due season, bear fruit.

Last year, I concluded my report by writing, 'May we here at St Bart's continue to be an Anglican church where people can feel in touch with God, a place where we are here for our neighbour and the stranger, loving them as we are loved by Him.' It is, God-willing, still our aim today.

Father Gareth Randall

