



St Bartholomew's Church,



Chaplaincy Report for the Archdeaconry Synod 2017

'Do not let your hearts be troubled' John 14 v1

My eleventh year as Priest-in-charge here; my tenth report for our Archdeaconry Synod; the verse above, the text for my sermon on 5th Sunday of Easter. And my question, this year, 'Can we here at St Bart's, Dinard, take Jesus' words to heart and be trouble free?'

Yes, if the past is to be believed. Our church was founded in 1871, and in four year's time we will, God-willing, be celebrating 150 years since our foundation. History has been kind to us here on the north Brittany coast and the church that was established then has flourished and many folk have found a place here where they feel able to worship and to be part of a Christian family.

Yes, if the present is to be believed. Last year, I wrote about our successful renovation of our 1894 Alfred Oldknow organ. We had the confidence to raise the considerable sum of money needed to restore our organ and music plays an essential part at the heart of our worship. Services continue to be well attended with around 50 in winter and around 100 in the season. There were around 170 at the Easter morning eucharist and for the Christmas Carol service, the

church was packed – standing room only – and the doors were closed and we started the service 15 minutes before the advertised time !

And the future ? Who knows what Brexit will bring ? But whatever, I do pray we may weather the change and continue to be the kind of church we are: open, warm, welcoming; a prayerful place where folk can come and worship God in an English language service, where communion can be shared with Christians of other denominations, where there is a chance for a coffee and a chat after the service.

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.

Father Gareth Randall

