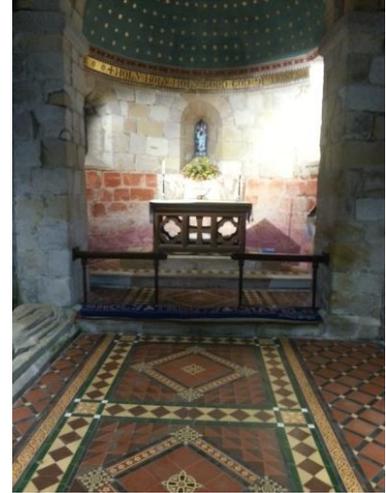


Heritage Fund

Eglingham & Old Bewick - Church and Churchyard Funding



St Maurice's



Holy Trinity

Eglingham Parish part of the Breamish and Till Benefice is very fortunate to have two beautiful and historic churches, St Maurice's in Eglingham and Holy Trinity at Old Bewick, both set in wonderfully atmospheric churchyards.

The church of St Maurice is significant as the Archdeacons of Lindisfarne were also vicars of this Parish. Ten of the twelve Archdeacons are buried in our churchyard. Inside St Maurice's there are many examples of memorial plaques in marble, stone and brass, and stained glass windows in memory of local families, as well as the Archdeacons and their wives.

Beneath the church floor are the Ogle and Collingwood family vaults and one previous vicar Archdeacon Hodgson is buried in a vault by the font; on the wall there is a memorial plaque.

Old Bewick too has existed as a place of worship and burials for many centuries and is a site of special historical significance.

Historical Background:

The Church of St Maurice in Eglingham is a Grade II listed building.

Pevsner, architect and author describes it as: '...much restored, but picturesque; a complicated mix of Medieval and Post-medieval builds'.

The West Tower is thought to date from the 13th Century, and may have been constructed by the same craftsmen who built the towers of Alnwick Castle Barbican, and Ingram Church. Much of the original church in Eglingham was destroyed by Lesley's invading Scottish Troops in 1596. The current structure dates largely from the 17th Century rebuild.

The vestry was added in 1828, the porch in 1867, and the tower was topped with a steeple in 1870.

In recent years the Tower arch has been closed off by a glazed wooden screen, and the original belfry is clearly visible from the interior. The church clock was automated in 2017 and bells chime out the hours, however the peals of bells for Weddings are now customized recordings.

The North Transept contains the Ogle Chapel. This is screened from the Chancel by the addition of another glazed wooden screen, and is used as a self-contained meeting room, and a place to serve refreshments after services. Beneath the floor of this chapel is the Ogle family vault. On the floor is a stone slab bearing the crest of Mark Ogle, a former Squire of the Parish.

The South Transept is a side chapel, known as the Lady Chapel. It still contains the Carr-Ellison family box pews, and various memorials to members of the family. There is a beautiful memorial window commissioned in the 1980's in memory of Carr-Ellison family members, as well as brass plaques and memorials to distinguished Carr-Ellison Military men.

Beneath the **Chancel floor** is a vault containing remains of members of the Collingwood family, and a commissioned stained glass window by the altar.

The Font at the West end of the nave is dated 1663, and the inscription 'CR' is thought to refer to King Charles II

St Maurice's:



Lady Chapel & Nave



The Chapel of Holy Trinity at Old Bewick dates back to the 12th Century. It was damaged in the Scottish invasions of the late 13th Century, but restored again in the 14th Century.

A bell dated 1478 was found in the chapel and suggests that at one time the church had either a tower or a belfry. After the Lesley troops damaged the chapel in 1640, the Lord of the Manor, Ralph Williamson had the Nave restored and refitted.

In the 1700's the roof was blown off, and the building was allowed to fall into disrepair, although the chapel and churchyard continued to be used for burials. It was not until 1866 that the roof was replaced, and the chapel restored. The chapel was re-opened for Service on 4th September 1867.

This work was instigated by a Mr. J.C. Langlands, whose monument still stands at the end of the lane leading up to the church. The church has recently celebrated 150 years of continuous service to our rural communities. A closer inspection of the external stone work reveals evidence of re-building over the centuries. The two original Norman arches spanning the chancel, and the domed ceiling at the altar are distinctive. This beautiful chapel features in several tourist guides, indicating its importance to the history of Northumberland.



Holy Trinity at Old Bewick

Unfortunately it costs about £10,000 each year to maintain and improve our buildings and churchyards. This covers grass cutting and tidying churchyards, tree pruning, pointing and repairing boundary walls, and the maintenance of the building and the church clock. There is no funding from the wider Church to support these costs. **Expenses for upkeep of the fabric of the building are not currently met by those using the churches, and so donations, legacies, and fund raising events are necessary.**

Our Heritage Fund is completely separate from the church finances, which cover the active life of the church: the running costs, financial commitments to the diocese, clergy salaries and expenses etc.

Significant support from the Middlemoor Community Fund has enabled St Maurice's to complete some major improvements: electrifying the church clock, re-pointing the tower and redecorating the interior to cover the damage from the leaking roof. The tower is now watertight, the background heating is more efficient, and there is less damp. Also recently paid for by Heritage Fund donations is the repair of the lock and provision of a new key at Holy Trinity. Holy Trinity Chapel still requires urgent work to underpin the porch and repair the roof.

We wish to thank those who have given so generously in the past, and who continue to make regular donations. We still need more donations to enable the maintenance and renovation to continue, and we are asking for your support. Thank you.

For details on how to make a donation you may contact:

Lawrence Holmes email : lawrence.h@live.co.uk or **Margaret Bell:** margaretbee48@gmail.com

Revised 2021 for Parish Profile