



St Maurice's
in 1824

St Maurice

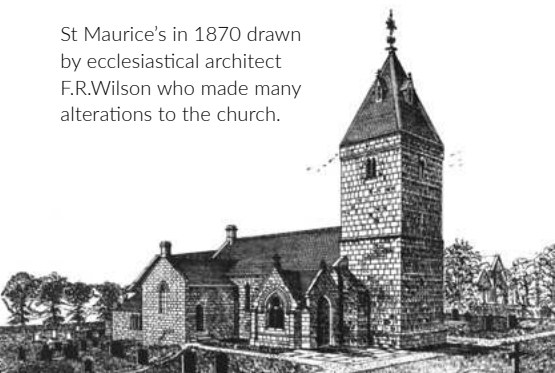
Maurice was a Christian officer in the Roman army of North African origin. He was martyred in the third century for refusing to kill other Christians. Mostly remembered as the patron saint of soldiers, St Maurice is a popular church dedication in Europe and America, but rare in England. There is no image of St Maurice here, however, at the church in nearby Ellingham, which is also dedicated to this saint, there is a memorial window showing him, as he is traditionally depicted, in full armour. His Feast Day is on 22nd September.

The Clergy

From 1842 to 1980, eleven Vicars of Eglingham were also Archdeacons of Lindisfarne. Find out more about them from the Lindisfarne Legacy exhibition in St Maurice's Ogle Chapel.



St Maurice's in 1870 drawn by ecclesiastical architect F.R.Wilson who made many alterations to the church.



A brief guide to St Maurice's Church

EGLINGHAM,
NORTHUMBERLAND



History of the Church

In the 8th century, Eagwulfincham, was one of four royal villages, given to the St Cuthbert's community on Lindisfarne by the Northumbrian King Ceolwulf after he joined them to become a monk. When Holy Island was abandoned in the 9th century, the monastic land and church at Eglingham was briefly held by Durham, but then granted to the new priory of Tynemouth, which was a cell of the Abbey at St Albans. After the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century, the church at Eglingham reverted again to Durham.

An earlier simply constructed building, was replaced by a stone church in the 12th century, with the tower added in the mid-13th century. First sacked by raiding Scots in 1596/7, the church was virtually destroyed in 1640, during Cromwell's time, at the hands of General Sir Alexander Leslie's army of the Covenanters who supported the Presbyterian church of Scotland. The imposing tower was the only part of the building which survived intact. The damage was repaired and the church reconstructed later in the 17th century.

Victorians made further changes, lowering the nave roof, adding a porch and steeple as well as replacing the windows. John Green, a Newcastle architect whose firm designed the Theatre Royal, was criticised for turning St Maurice's from 'a valuable post-medieval building into a sham one'. More sensitive alterations were made in later Victorian times by F.R. Wilson of Alnwick, who had previously worked on the Houses of Parliament.



The church is open to visitors without charge, however, donations are very welcome towards the upkeep of this unique place.

THANK YOU

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Windfarm Community Benefit Fund.



A Self-guided Tour

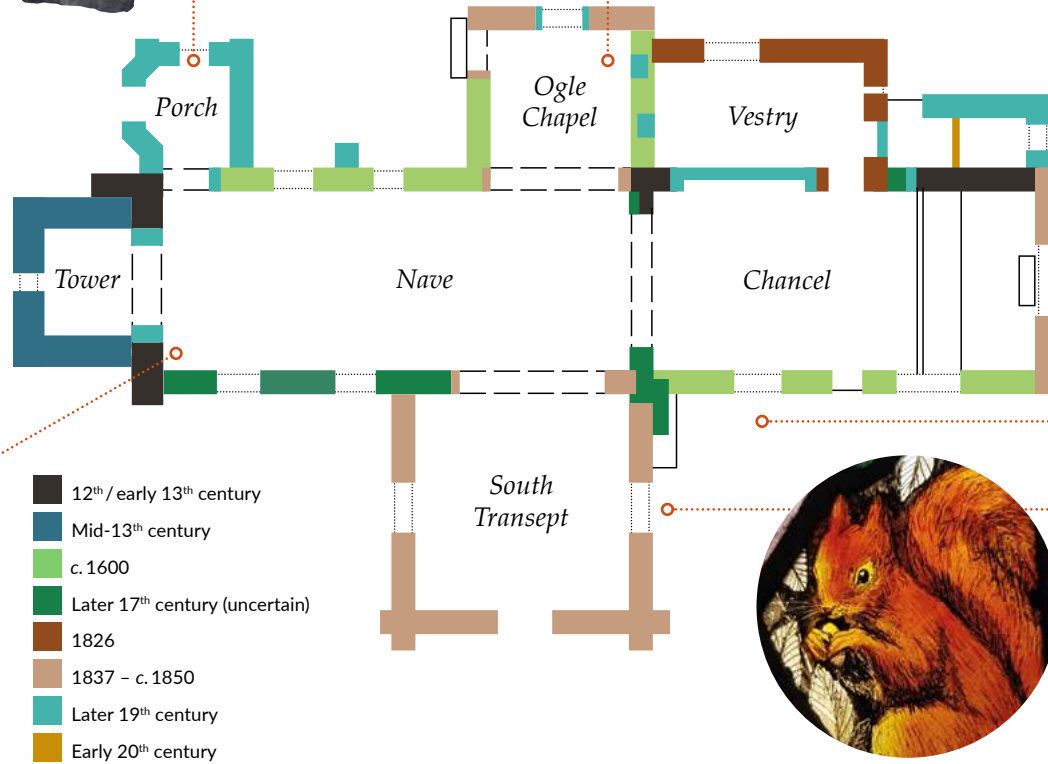
In the **Porch**, which was built in 1866 as a memorial to Archdeacon Coxe, is the 12th century font from the now ruinous Brandon chapel and two early gravestones, the top of a cross slab and a magnificently carved 18th century gravestone.

The **Tower** may have been a safe retreat during the time of the Border raids. It has two ancient bells – the one from Old Bewick has a German inscription and is dated 1489. A staircase once accessed a gallery which provided extra seating in the days when nearly everyone went to church. A steeple was added to the tower in 1870 as a memorial to Oswald Carr, and the clocks in 1911.

The **Font** at the west end of the Nave dated 1663, is one of the church's oldest features. The inscription 'CR' is thought to refer to King Charles II. The portrait and memorial relate to the Reverend Hugh Hodgson (1737–1810), a vicar here for 40 years.



Early 16th-century Ogle gravestone



The oldest transept is the **Ogle Chapel** built over the family vault and much altered over the years. In Victorian times, Squire Ogle, who lived in Eglington Hall, had the luxury of his own fireplace, when the rest of the church was unheated. The screen was installed in 2009, and the Lindisfarne Legacy exhibition in 2023.



The **Chancel** arch looks Norman but is probably 17th or 18th century, possibly reusing older materials, and altered again in the 19th century. Beneath the Chancel floor is the vault of the Collingwood Family of East Ditchburn and Lilburn Towers, ancestors of Admiral Lord Collingwood who was with Admiral Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar. The two 1970's windows, in mosaic style, are both by master Scottish glazier Gordon Webster.



The aisleless **Nave** was largely rebuilt in the 17th century reconstruction. The two Victorian stained-glass memorial windows illustrate the Celtic saints Aidan and Cuthbert reinforcing St Maurice's links with Lindisfarne. The plaques to the Baker Tristram family record their support for children's education before it became compulsory. In 1828, the Rev. Henry Baker Tristram opened a Girl's School in the village, built largely at his own expense.

The **South transept** is Victorian and still has the old box pews. Wall plaques and a fine modern stained-glass window, illustrating a naturalistic interpretation of the local countryside, are memorials to the Carr-Ellison family, longtime benefactors of this church, who still live at nearby Hedgeley Hall. The Lady Chapel was dedicated in the 1970's as a memorial to friends Archdeacons Pawson and Foreman. Below the south window is the gravestone of a Presbyterian minister. In 1808, dissenters could be buried in their local parish church, regardless of their differing beliefs.

