



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WICK

The dedication of the church at Wick has been variously ascribed to St. Bartholomew, St. Laurence and St. Mary, of whom the last is generally taken to be correct.

Originally built in the 12th century the church may well have been founded by the Lord of the Manor, who would have reserved the right to appoint the parish priest. Of the 12th century building only a few features remain; a window on the north side of the altar, another on the south side of the nave and the south door.

The church was extended in 1195 when a north aisle was added and the pillars in the nave date from this time. The west wall is probably 12th century with the wagon roof being from the 15th century. The Priest's door, formerly in the south wall of the chancel, now forms the entrance to the vestry.

The font is a transformation of what may have been a 12th century tub font and two ancient stone heads of a king and queen are preserved at the west end of the nave. The bell was cast by Abraham Rudhall in 1722.

In the last 100 years or so parts of the church have twice been rebuilt. The north aisle was rebuilt in 1861 and in 1893 the chancel was reconstructed and lengthened and a new organ chamber and vestry were added. The 17th century altar rails were lowered, the old square pews replaced by open seats and most of the remaining fittings date from this period.

The stained glass in the sanctuary, given in memory of Henry and Mary Hudson, is by the distinguished Victorian artist Charles Eamer Kempe while the St Mary's Millennium window, located opposite the main door was designed and crafted by Gerald Paxton and presented by the people of Wick to mark the Second Millennium of Christ's birth.

The Millennium pew cushions were worked by members of the Wick Ladies Tapestry group and were dedicated with the Millennium window by the Right Reverend K J Woolcombe on 18th June 2000.