

St Dionysius Timeline

Date	statement	source
12th C	Founded	Second statistical account
1790	The parish church appears to be an old edifice, and has lately received several improvements	First statistical account
circa 1814	it underwent repairs and an enlargement, by the addition of a northern aisle and steeple	Second statistical account
1834	Fordyce aisle referred to as a ruin, having been converted to a burial place	Second statistical account
1834	The present place of worship consists of part of the ancient walls	Second statistical account
1834	There is likewise remaining, the gable of the chancel [of the original church], the sidewalls of which have been assisted in their decay, by the sacrilegious hands of plunderers, for the sake of the sandstone	Second statistical account
1834	In the gable of the present church, there is a large circular arch, nearly the whole width of the wall, but now built up, which must have formed the spacious communication with the chancel [of the original church], and of course wide enough to admit the grand processions to and from the altar in Catholic times.	Second statistical account
1834	In its present state, it may contain nearly 500 sitters	Second statistical account
1836	the [earlier] chapel was built in the form of a St. John's cross. The present church stands upon the foundation of that part of its walls which constituted its nave. The eastern wall of the chancel, and the south wing of the transept, constructed of square hewn sand-stone, and clothed with a beautiful mantle of ivy, are its sole remains.	Carr's History of Coldingham Priory
1836	The interior of the transept has, in more recent years, been employed as a burial vault by the family of the present proprietor.	Carr's History of Coldingham Priory
1867	St Dionysius no longer used when new church built	
1896	The old belfry stands almost complete, clothed with a thick mantle of ivy, while the side walls are in some parts fairly entire. The south transept of this original church has been used for many years as the private burial vault of the Fordyce family, formerly proprietors of Ayton Castle	Robson's Churches and Churchyards of Berwickshire

- 1896 The east wall of the church was nearly entire about half-a-century ago, but has since been removed, so that the dimensions of that portion of the building cannot now be ascertained. The nave has been about 75 feet long by 20 feet 6 inches wide, but none of its original features are now visible. The belfry tower on the north side was a late addition. (Hint. Ber. Nat. Club, 1890.) Robson's Churches and Churchyards of Berwickshire
- 1896 The original building stood in the churchyard, and was built in the form of a St. Johns cross. The foundations of that part of its walls which constituted the nave, as also the eastern wall of the chancel and a considerable portion of the south transept, constructed of square hewn sandstone, remained undisturbed, and formed part of the successor of the original church. The whole fabric is now roofless, but forms a picturesque ruin. Robson's Churches and Churchyards of Berwickshire

Other information

Its original dimensions comprehending the external ruins, had afterwards been contracted within narrower limits Second statistical account 1834

After a very careful and minute examination of the place a few years ago, Mr. Ferguson writes: "If the adjunct called the south transept has not been a late addition to the church, the window has been a late insertion in the transept and it is impossible to avoid the suspicion that it may have been one of the improvements referred to in the Old Statistical Account as having been made upon the church not many years before it was written Robson's Churches and Churchyards of Berwickshire 1896