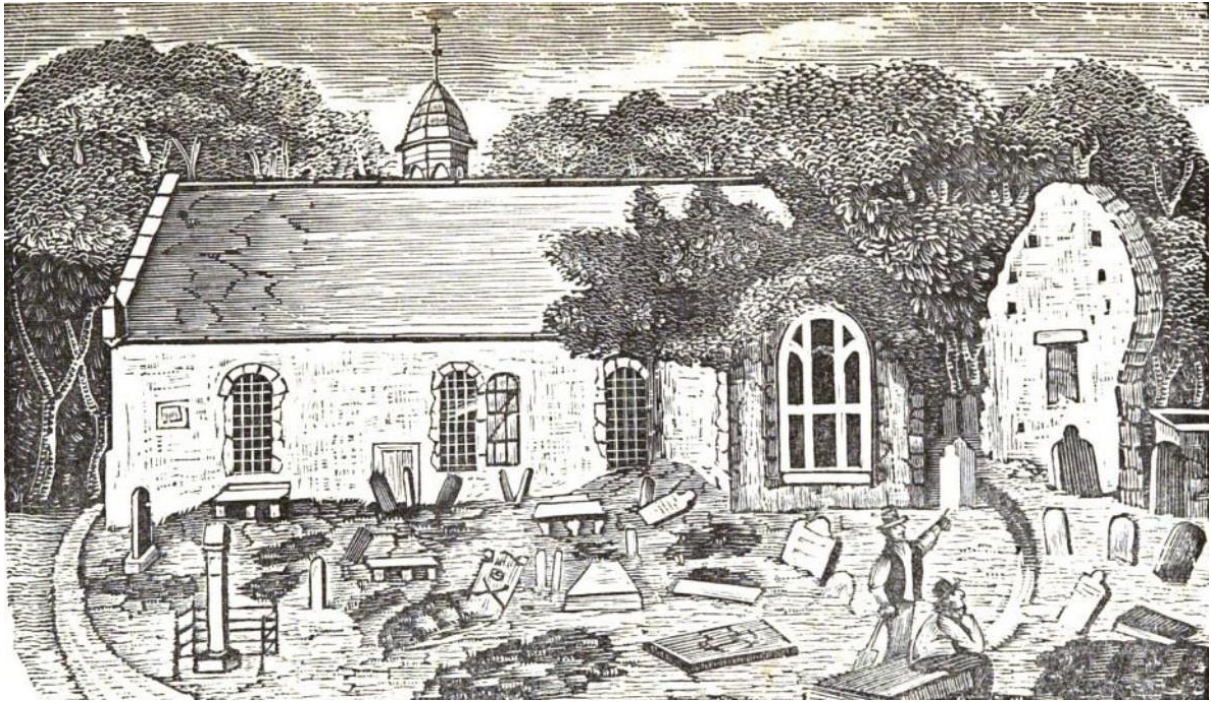


Extract from *A History of Coldingham Priory* by Alexander Allan Carr, Surgeon
1836

The Church was a cell or dependancy attached to our monastery, and its advowson was vested in the Prior and a chapter of the monks. It was probably founded soon after the institution of the Priory, though the first notice of it made in the chartulary is in a deed granted upwards of a hundred years later. The names of its chaplains occasionally occur, but as little or nothing is known of their history, their insertion appears unnecessary. The first of them whom we have met with was Robertus Parsona capellae de Ayton, who must have held office between the years 1166 and 1232, being the period during which the individual, whose charter he attests, flourished. The last of its chaplains under the old system, seems to have been John Home, who, on the 6th May 1554, subscribed a contract entered into by Sir Patrick Home of Ayton, and his kinsman, William Home of Prendergust. Like the greater part of our old ecclesiastic edifices, the 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. The interior of the transept has, in more recent years, been employed as a burial vault by the family of the present proprietor. Its window, represented here, with its circular arch and massive mullions, affords a fine specimen of the intermixture between the Saxon and Norman styles of architecture, introduced into Scotland during the twelfth century.



After the arrangement of parishes, the present parishes of Ayton, Eyemouth, and Coldingham, formed the then parish of Coldingham. At the Reformation, Ayton was disjoined from Coldingham, and united with Lamberton; but not long afterwards it became, as it is now, a parish per se. The stipend attached to the living is sixteen chalders, with a glebe, valued at £38 yearly. The present incumbent is the Rev. George Tough.