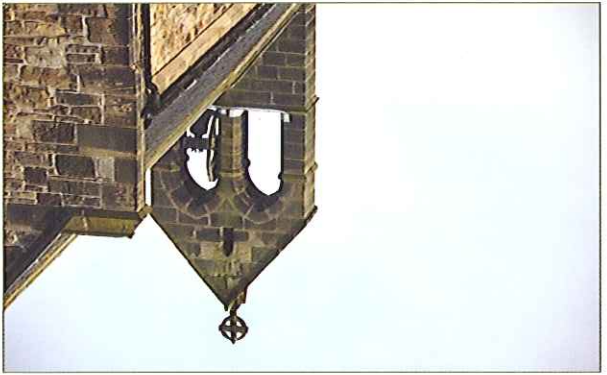
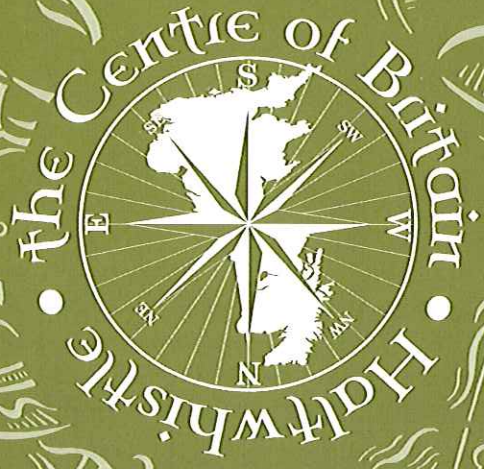


Explore
Haltwhistle's
 Celtic Connections



The impressive 13th Century Church of the Holy Cross links us to Roman and Celtic beginnings.



Things to do and see in Haltwhistle

A Church Mystery Tour

Find the 7th Century holy water stoup in the Church ... did it come from a Roman Temple?

Take a mystery tour through the grave markers ...

look for the one where the stonemason ran out of

room!!

A Study in Glass

The stained-glass East Window in the Church of the Holy Cross was made by William Morris and Co. in 1872.

It is the work of the Pre-Raphaelite artists Edward

Burne-Jones, Ford Maddox Brown and Philip Webb.

The other windows are by Burne-Jones and Charles

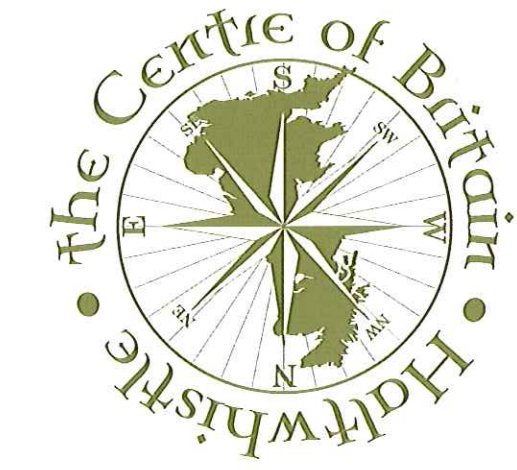
Kempe and date from between 1885 and 1903.

Centre of Britain

The Market Place dates back to the 13th Century. King John granted a Market Charter in 1207 for weekly markets and fairs to be held twice a year.

Haltwhistle Burn

Just north and east of the town runs the Haltwhistle Burn - a delightful walk through beautiful scenery, but in the 1860s, it was a place of intense industrial activity: the powerhouse for much of Haltwhistle's industry.



www.hearthadrianswall.co.uk

For more information on things to do and places to stay in Haltwhistle visit:



HALTWHISTLE



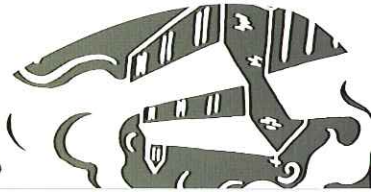
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
 Europe investing in rural areas



This leaflet is part of Haltwhistle's 'Market Town Welcome' initiative delivered by Haltwhistle Partnership

www.haltwhistle.org

Designed and produced by: differentia.co.uk
 Printed on 100% recycled paper using mineral based inks.



Although there is no reference to a church at Haltwhistle prior to 1178 it is likely that there was a Saxon Church here before that date.

After the Battle of Heavenfield in 635, in which St Oswald, the Christian king of Northumbria, defeated the pagan armies of the native Cadwallon and Penda there followed an era of church building.

St Aidan came down from Iona to convert Northumbria and erect Christian places of worship. It is likely that such a building was constructed in Haltwhistle though probably nearer to the river on the 'haughs' or flat lands rather than the present site. This early church was dedicated to St Aidan and it is suggested that St Aidan's ministry in Haltwhistle is preserved in the place name of 'Edens Lawn,

probably a corruption of the Celtic 'Llan Aidan';

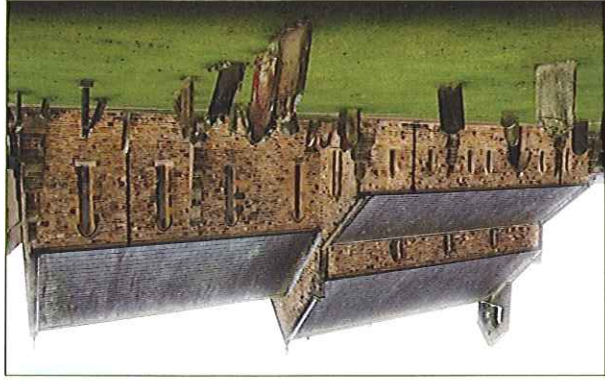
Written reference to the present church first appears in the Charter of the Abbey of Arbroath

founded by William the Lion in 1178. (The Scottish kings were Lords Seigneur at various times through the 12th & 13th centuries.)

The King granted lands in the Manor of Haltwhistle to the Benedictine order. The grant was confirmed by Robert the Bruce in 1180. The present church was built under the direction of the Abbots of Arbroath and their master builder.

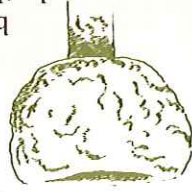
There were disputes about the ownership of the Manor and Church between the English and Scottish crowns through the Reiver times.

The ancient parish of Haltwhistle covered an area of almost 60,000 acres from Greenhead in the west to Ridley in the east. Like many others, the church was much restored in Victorian times and the Wm. Morris stained glass windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones are an interesting feature of it today.



Church of the Holy Cross

On entering you will see the font believed to be from Hadrian's Wall and the 7th Century holy water stoup - thought to have been used by Paulinus - one of the first Christian missionaries - to Northumbria.



The quiet interior of the church reveals other features, such as the beautiful stained-glass windows made by the William Morris Company and wood carvings by Ralph Hedley.

In 1311 the Scots attacked Haltwhistle and carried off the vicar, Robert de Pykewell. A ransom was demanded but the townsfolk, either through poverty or dislike, refused to pay it and the money was finally raised by the Bishops of Durham.

Walter De Merton, Chancellor of England and the founder of Merton College Oxford left 25 marks to the church in his will of 1277 as he was once vicar here. The Ridley memorial stone relates to John Ridley brother-in-law of Nicholas, Bishop of London who was burnt at the stake along with Cranmer and Latimer in 1555. John is buried here.

'Edens Lawn', which lies to the west of the church, probably taken from the Celtic 'Llan Aidan'; Find the 7th Century holy water stoup in the Church ... did it come from a Roman Temple?'

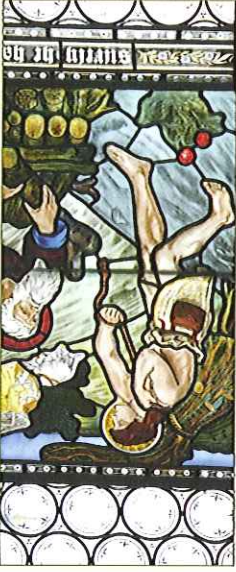
A less savoury character, one Humphrey Dacres, was vicar from 1633 to 1670. He was forced from his living by the puritans but was reinstated after the Restoration only to be sacked again for being

"a notorious drunkard being so drunk on the first Sunday of this year that he could do no service in the Church, and there were other foul and scandalous infornations(sic) brought against him by occasion whereof many of the parish were turned to Popery"!

Tradition has it that Paulinus made his great missionary effort in the immediate vicinity from 625-632 and it is quite possible that he used the Old Water Stoup as a baptismal font.

Not only is the site of the Church connected with Aidan and Paulinus but there is also a belief that St Cuthbert visited on his way from Hexham to Carlisle. Bates in Archaeologica Aeliana writes

"half way between the two cities he spent two days in a mountainous country, preaching and confirming at a place called Aehse or Echse, probably the Roman fort at Aesica";



St Patrick is believed to have been born close to the nearby Roman fort of Banna, now Biridoswald, about 400AD. His Roman background is confirmed as his father, Calpurnius, was a Christian Deacon, probably serving the forces garrisoned on Hadrian's Wall. St Patrick was taken as a captive to Ireland where he lived as a slave before escaping to France.