



Phillack Church

History

The Celtic foundations date to the 6th century and are associated with Saint Piala. It was later rededicated to St. Felicitas, the probable source of the name Phillack. The only visible evidence of this period is the Chi-Rho stone over the south porch - the Greek characters Chi and Rho spell the first two letters of Christos. It would have been placed here during later construction.



The tower was added in 1482 and, as the parish population rose from 1,775 people in 1801 to 4,854 in 1871 - largely due to the growth of Hayle as an industrial centre - increased church accommodation was necessary and a major reconstruction was completed in 1856. Nor was this enough; in 1870, the western part of Phillack parish was severed to form a new parish of St. Elwyn's, Hayle.

Today



The black wall surrounding the churchyard is made from 'scoria'. This is a material unique to the Hayle area since it is slag from the Cornish Copper Company's copper smelter which operated from 1758 until the early 1800s.

Local planning policies have attempted to maintain Phillack as a separate village but growth in population has inevitably put this under pressure. The proposed harbour development has already caused certain planning protections to be lifted and a growth in traffic through the village is expected.

In 1993 St. Piala's Holy Well at the top of Phillack Hill was restored by the Old Cornwall Society and reconsecrated.