

A sunset over the ocean with a couple sitting on a bench in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and a shimmering reflection on the water. The sky is filled with soft, golden clouds. In the foreground, the silhouettes of two people are visible as they sit on a wooden bench, looking out at the sea. The overall mood is peaceful and romantic.

# Welcome

to

## Marygate House

on the  
Holy Island of Lindisfarne

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# About the House

The Holy Island of Lindisfarne is one of the cradles of Christianity in Europe. It was from here that St Aidan went out to the people of Northumbria, teaching the Faith. And, from here, manuscripts of exceptional beauty and scholarship were sent across the known world. Holy Island continues to be a place of pilgrimage for thousands of people each year.

Enjoy the peace, holiness and tranquility of this island from the comfort of Marygate House, a small retreat centre which is run on the principle monastic hospitality since 1970, enabling people of all backgrounds to visit and retreat on Holy Island, regardless of circumstances.

From here, walk out onto the coastline, with its wading birds and ever-changing tides. Or through the ancient sites of the Priory and St Mary's Church. Ancient Celtic Christians used the term, "thin space" to describe somewhere, where the veil between Heaven & Earth seemed to be paper thin.

Holy Island, where sky and sea touch, has a rich history of being a place to drown out the noise and connect with the divine.

No. of guests

15

Bedrooms

7

Bathrooms

4 Shared

&

1 en-suite

Location

Holy Island,  
Northumberland



# Meet your Team



*Frances Wilson*  
**WARDEN**



*Catherine Grannum*  
**DEPUTY WARDEN**



*Amanda Thompson*  
**ADMINISTRATOR**

[enquiries@marygatehouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@marygatehouse.org.uk)

Tel: 01289 389246

Mobile: 07386886925

Dear Guest,

Welcome to the Marygate House. We're beyond excited to have you!

Have a great stay!

*Frances Wilson*

If you would like to speak confidentially to a member of the Team during your stay here, please include this request in your booking form or email.

If, during your visit, you wish for a pastoral conversation or prayer, please ask a member of the Team, who will arrange a time to meet.



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Wifi





# Check-in

Check-in is after 4 PM

Please reach out, if you require an early check in or you will be late

**SAFE CROSSING TIMES PLEASE CHECK**  
[holysislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk](http://holysislandcrossingtimes.northumberland.gov.uk)

### IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTES:

The times provided are for those people who wish to use the Lindisfarne Causeway ROAD to access (or return from) Holy Island.

The times should be treated with caution, as local weather conditions (such as high wind) can change them.

**Always allow 30 minutes extra time to compensate for these variables.**

There is also a marked WALKING ROUTE OVER THE SANDS/MUD, however THESE TIMES DO NOT APPLY TO IT. If you intend to use this route, please do it during daylight hours with someone who has local knowledge and **NEVER CROSS DURING A RISING TIDE**. You should therefore aim to have completed this walk **BEFORE** the mid-point of the safe-to-cross time period.

These times are given in good faith, but Northumberland County Council can accept no responsibility for decisions taken on the basis of any inaccuracies.

# Check-out

Check-out by 10 am.

You are welcome to use the amenities of the house until you wish to leave.

- Please check and ensure you have all your belongings.



# Amenities

## Items Currently Available

- Towels
- Tea and coffee facilities are situated in the dining area. Please help yourself.
- Library/Common Room



**The Common Room was originally a Library and retains a large collection of books which guests are free to borrow during their stay. It is a peaceful, relaxing space for sitting quietly or meeting other guests.**



# Useful Info



**999**  
**Emergency**



**WARDENS' MOBILE: 07386886925**  
**Marygate Landline: 01289 389246**  
**ENQUIRIES@MARYGATEHOUSE.ORG.UK**

In following the Desert and Celtic saints, we seek to offer generous and unconditional welcome to those who stay with us.

We are a non-denominational Christian retreat house and enjoy the company of guests reflecting a glorious diversity of Christian belief and practices. This diversity, of course, allows for strongly held beliefs on a variety of subjects, including gender and sexuality. In welcoming all here, we ask guests to take care for each other in conversations, particularly in the dining and common room, respecting the integrity and sincerity of other Christians whose beliefs and ways of living differ from our own.

The Wardens are more than willing to discuss in confidence any matters anyone wishes to raise with us regarding these guidelines.

# Dining At Marygate

Marygate House provides high quality, home cooked meals.

**Breakfast is at 8.45 a.m.**

**Supper at 6 p.m.**

Both are served in the Dining Room.

**A substantial packed lunch is prepared, allowing guests the flexibility to use the day as they choose.**



We are able to manage all special dietary requirements.

However, we do need a minimum of 3 weeks notice.

There are no grocery shops on the island, so deliveries from the mainland need to be ordered and delivered well in advance of your stay.



# Sustainability



Set within an Area of Outstanding Beauty (AOB), Marygate House is committed to good stewardship of the earth's resources and sustainability in its widest sense.

Our tiny yard grows a wide variety of herbs, which we use in our home-cooked meals; and we tobin compost our food waste.

As much as we are able as a catering facility, we use as little of plastic items such as cling film as possible; and we have moved away from disposable paper napkins to laundered cotton ones. These small steps are milestones towards a more ecologically-friendly Marygate House which are built into our plans for refurbishment..



Surrounded as we are by the sea, aware of the elements in our everyday life, we seek to live as closely as possible to the natural environment, aware of our impact and working to live more harmoniously in this sacred space, as stewards of God's creation.



# The Beaches



## COVES BEACH

This remote and little known sandy beach is located on the far (northern) side of Holy Island. Backed by high sand dunes there are steep cliffs at the eastern end, both of which provide shelter from the wind.



## THE HARBOUR

As the tide washes in and out, the shoreline is a busy area for wading birds with gulls, ducks and geese in the deeper waters. Fishing boats bob at anchor further out, or pulled in close when a storm is forecast. There is always plenty of activity here.



## SANDHAM BEACH

A remote sandy beach on the northern coast of Holy Island. Sitting in the lee of Emmanuel Head the beach here is easily located by the huge white pyramid shaped navigation tower that warns shipping of the hidden reefs off the coast here.



## THE NORTH SHORE

This expansive sandy beach is the most westerly of three on Holy Island's remote, north coast. It is also the most exposed, taking the brunt of the waves and weather the North Sea can throw at it.

However, if it is space you are after then there is plenty of that; when the tide goes out the beach here stretches all the way to Goswick Sands on the mainland. The island end of the beach has a slightly cosier feel as it backs up against the sand dunes and cliffs of Snipe Point. Here you will also find a plethora of rock pools when the tide goes out.

# Things to Do



## **GERTRUDE JEKYLL GARDENS**

Gertrude Jekyll Garden - Ablaze with summer colour and fragrance, Gertrude Jekyll designed it for the overlooking castle (look out for the dropped wall offering Edward Hudson and his visitors an uninterrupted view from the dining room). It's a peaceful place to sit and admire the view and listen to the bees buzzing from bloom to bloom in the summer, or watch the flocks of wading birds and geese flying past the castle during the winter months.



## **PILGRIMS CAUSEWAY WALK**

It takes about two hours to walk to the Island from the Causeway. Ideally set off two hours before low tide - walking with the outgoing tide rather the rising tide. The Pilgrims route is about three miles long. Do not attempt to cross at dusk or in poor weather conditions. Always on a tide going out. Ask a member of staff before doing so for guidance.



## **THE PRIORY**

The ruins of Lindisfarne Priory dominate the southern side of the village on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Follow in the footsteps of saints to the ruins of Lindisfarne Priory, founded by St Aidan in 635 AD in which the Lindisfarne Gospels were written.



## **ST CUTHBERT'S ISLAND**

St Cuthbert Island (also known as Hobthrush island) is located just off Holy Island. As the tide rises, it becomes completely separated from Holy Island. St Cuthbert is said to have moved to Lindisfarne at about the age of 30 and lived there for the next 10 years. He ran the monastery; he was an active missionary; he was much in demand as a spiritual guide and he developed the gift of spiritual healing.

# Review

We hope you have a wonderful time during your stay with us!

We will be grateful if you would share with us your stay in our Guest Book



Your feedback is highly important to us.

Thank you!



# Our Vision



## Marygate House Holy Island

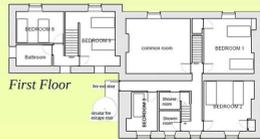
Marygate House is a not-for-profit retreat centre for those wishing to stay on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne for a time of peace, rest and refreshment.

*Now, after 55 years of providing solace and support, Marygate House is itself in need of some 'TLC'. We are working on ambitious plans to take us into the next half-century, make the building more environmentally sustainable, more comfortable for our guests and more accessible for visitors with special needs.*

### Our existing layout ▼



Second Floor

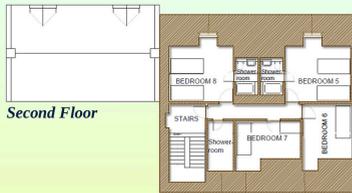


First Floor



Existing Ground Floor

### Our Vision for the Future ▼



Second Floor



First Floor



Proposed Ground Floor



These plans are a foretaste of the changes we'd like to make. We would welcome your views and support to help us to realise this vision. Please visit our website via this QR code or at <https://marygatehouse.org.uk>

Our aim is for Marygate House to be made a more inviting, comfortable and accessible place of hospitality and sanctuary, fully equipped for guests to come and explore Holy Island, and enjoy space and peace for personal refreshment and spiritual renewal.

We would very much welcome your interest and support to enable us to upgrade and provide this vital service for another half century.

We invite you to join our special **"Future Vision"** mailing list to receive updates on plans and progress, and to consider making a donation.

**Email:** [enquiries@marygatehouse.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@marygatehouse.org.uk) to be added to the **"Future Vision"** mailing list

A photograph of a two-story stone building with a green door and white-framed windows. The building has a dark roof with two dormer windows and a brick chimney. The sky is clear blue. The text "Enjoy your Stay" is overlaid in a white, cursive font.

Enjoy  
your  
Stay

Hope to see you again!