

The legend of Bickesheim

There are no exact documents about the construction and the determination of the present church location. However, an old legend tells why the church was built on this site:

When it was decided to build a chapel in honour of the Virgin Mary below the village of Durmersheim on the Hardt in the direction of Ettlingen, wood and stones were brought together from all directions.

But in the night before the start of construction, all the building material was moved to a remote location - exactly where the church stands today. At first it was suspected that malicious time enjoyed the craftsmen wanted to play a trick and brought everything back to the old place. But in the following night the process repeated itself again.

Again, the entire material was transported back at great expense. One of the carpenters, who was very annoyed and loudly scolded the alleged evildoers, lay down overnight on the wood to guard it.

But the next morning, for the third time, the stones and beams were lying in that place.

On them lay the carpenter - dead and rigid.

Thereupon one recognized the miraculous divine providence that the church should be built on the place where it still stands today.

A new edition of a small church guide provides informative information on the building and art history of the pilgrimage church. It is available locally.