

St Columba's, West View
Wideopen

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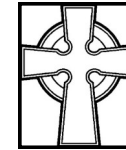
www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk

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50p

## St Columba's Wideopen Parish Magazine



June and July 2020

[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

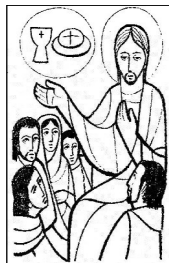
# ST COLUMBA'S WIDEOPEN

## Our Mission Action Plan

Ensure that we put Christ at the centre of all that we do.

Attract more young families and young people to the family of our Church

Help all members to grow in faith, discipleship and pastoral care



## JAMES HAMILTON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

No one ever wants to organise a funeral, but when the inevitable happens it is reassuring to know that

**James Hamilton Funeral Directors**

are here to guide you through that difficult time.

Serving the community of  
Wideopen, Cramlington  
and all of the North East

We are an Independent Family Firm  
With over 25 years experience in the business

New chapels of rest at Darrell House Brunswick Village

### Let our family look after your family

If you would like more information on costs  
and the service we provide

24 Hours a day, 7 days a week,

Please feel free to give us a call on

**0191 236 6243**

Golden Charter Pre- Payment Plans

### **Groups meeting in Church**

Book Club monthly, watch for dates and venues

Ladies' Group 3rd Wednesday of the month 7.30 pm

Mothers' Union 2nd Thursday of the month 2 pm

Open Door 1st Tuesday of the month 12 - 2.30 pm

Parent and Toddler Group Tuesday 9.15-11 am (term time)

Scrabble alternate Mondays 2pm

Whey Aye WI 4th Tuesday of the month 7.00 pm

All held in the Church Hall unless stated otherwise.

Please note the Parent and Toddler Group does not meet in the school holidays.

**None of these is meeting at present.**

**We hope to resume all activities as soon as the current situation allows.**



I write hoping that everyone has kept safe and well during these past difficult weeks. We must continue to take care for the time being.

Our President sent an email recently informing me that Families Worldwide, our magazine, were being posted to members together with an appeal letter for donations. If you don't receive these by the middle of June would you please let me know?

Also I ask that you contact me if you require any help during the remainder of the lockdown.

Until it's possible to meet up again I send my love and prayers to everyone.  
Mary Lobb

### **ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH IN THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE KING**

#### **Associate Minister**

Rev'd Peter Sinclair

#### **Team Vicar**

Rev'd Dr. Pauline  
Pearson  
Tel 07753744349

#### **Hon. Assistant Priests**

Rev'd Bill Miller  
Tel 0191 2365024

#### **Churchwardens**

Mrs Marjorie Fairbairn  
Mr Bill Lomas

#### **Magazine Editors**

Bill and Avril Lomas  
avrillomas@aol.com

#### **Hall Bookings**

Mrs Marjorie Fairbairn

#### **District Church Council**

Mrs Moira Allan  
Mrs Susan Brimer  
Mrs Hilary Cartwright  
Mrs Joyce Elrod  
Mrs Mary Lobb  
Mrs Mary Main  
Mrs Val Pringle  
Mr Edgar Ridley  
Mrs Wendy Shaw  
Mrs Hilary Temperley  
Mr Stephen Temperley

#### **DCC Secretary**

Mrs Avril Lomas

#### **Deanery Synod Rep**

Mr Bill Lomas  
Mr Edgar Ridley

#### **Parish Council Reps**

The Churchwardens  
Mrs Mary Lobb  
Mrs Avril Lomas



## **From your editors**

Necessity is the mother of invention they say and it is certainly true that the circumstances in which we all operate at the moment force people to think differently. When this church magazine started there was no intention of it being made available digitally and yet now we find that it is the only way in which it can be produced and circulated.

And such is the way with so many aspects of life – they have been adapted to accommodate both the restrictions of the times and the numerous possibilities of the digital age., everything from the demands of a full time job to maintaining all social contacts via the whole gamut of keep fit classes.

Not to forget, of course, all the work that has gone into providing so many on line church services which have been so much appreciated by the church's congregation. We hope you enjoy this edition and we also hope to “see” you at our next service.

Stay safe!

*Bill and Avril*

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CORONAVIRUS**

*serving the communities of  
Seaton Burn, Wideopen and Five Mile Park/ North Gosforth*

**Community Support Phone Number**  
**Call 07729 632242**

During this period of uncertainty about the effect of Coronavirus you may already have arrangements in place for support from family, friends or neighbours. However, we are aware that there may be some situations where it is difficult for some people in our communities to get the support that they need for everyday essential activities.

It may also be that as people self-isolate, they feel cut off and would appreciate hearing a friendly and reassuring voice on the end of a phone.

So, if you need practical help (e.g. shopping) or friendly support during this period of the Coronavirus out-break, then please feel free to call the number above.

**The phoneline will be open between 9.00am –6.00pm each day.**

You will be able to leave a message and we will get back to you. This support is being provided by volunteer members of the local community from St Columba's Church, St Aidan's Church and local residents. Further information at:

[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

Facebook: [@stcolumbaswideopen](https://www.facebook.com/stcolumbaswideopen)

# COVID-19

**The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close**

We are seeing a huge increase in the number of people falling sick with COVID-19. We must distance ourselves from one another and prevent the spread of infection in order to save lives.

**Therefore, as well as public worship being suspended, this and all church buildings in the Church of England are now closed.**

Our worship of God and our care for each other continue but cannot be done in this building.

Our website contains details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life.

See: [www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)

The vicar/churchwardens of this church can be contacted in an emergency

by telephoning     Mobile: 07753744349  
                             Landline: 0191 236 2280

or emailing     [infostcolumbawideopen@gmail.com](mailto:infostcolumbawideopen@gmail.com)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength .  
. . Love your neighbour as yourself  
There Is no commandment greater than these.”

## SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA'S



Wednesday     9-30 am     Said Eucharist followed by  
                                                 coffee in the hall

Sunday     8-00 am     Said Eucharist in Chapel.

Sunday     10 am Family Eucharist.  
                                                 Followed by tea and coffee in the hall.

**All services in church have been cancelled for  
the foreseeable future because of  
coronavirus precautions.  
Please check the website for any changes to  
this situation.**

**Please see the website**

**[www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk](http://www.stcolumbaswideopen.co.uk)**

**for services online**

## From our Team Vicar, Pauline

Dear friends

As I wrote my last letter to you, we were just about to enter lockdown. Now we have been in that state for eight weeks as I write, and are moving into our ninth week. During the week we have been permitted a very slight relaxation of the rules, so that for the first time since February, I saw my grandson in the garden, at a good 2 metres distance. He had of course to break the rules, since he brought his parents with him, but at 3 months old, it was understandable!



With this small relaxation, there has been lots of debate in the media about the pace and practicality of easing lockdown. Should schools return to something closer to normal, at least for some?

An overhanging horse chestnut tree has “lit” its candles with a promise of conkers to come.



The stars of the show have to be the hawthorn trees and bushes which are dripping with the most lovely scented blossom. There are plenty of bumble bees and the odd butterfly caught warming itself in the sun – which is encouraging, as generally, I believe, they are in decline .I hope we can all take some positive from these hard times, and that we will all, like the swans, be able to be together again, “swimming” into whatever comes next ,with a more heightened awareness of our amazing planet.



Wendy  
Shaw



As the time has gone by we first saw the emergence of the daisies and dandelions, followed by clumps of bluebells and forget me nots with their tiny, intense blue flowers, in the under growth. Along the banks of a sluggish and congested burn appeared the marsh marigolds, and then I espied a small clump of cowslips-my favourite wild flower.

All the trees were gradually unfurling their leaves and now the overhead canopy is complete and it is like walking through a green tunnel, and the undergrowth is now a thick lush carpet. When the sun shines (which it has so often) the dappled shade is beautiful. The dandelions have now had their moment of glory, and a haze of white fluff balls are waiting for the wind to disperse their seeds – although I fear the grass cutters will thwart that! The sides of the pathways are a haze of white cow parsley and in and amongst it can be found the pink campion.



The burn unfortunately is choked with long grass and bulrushes and the lack of rain hasn't helped the water flow, but it does have its own appeal!



Is it safer to open shops in London than in Liverpool or Gateshead? If we want to promote public transport use, how will that work with social distancing? Who is facing the biggest risks in days to come? A lot of our attention has been focused on imagining a range of more and less risky futures – from the one in which some of us stay safely cocooned (or entombed?) at home, to one in which we can do things exactly as before. And of course futures for our life as a church community along a similar axis of risk – from a return to the traditions we have grown up with to a future which might be more like the online pattern that we have developed to sustain us. Thinking about the future is understandable, but we shouldn't lose heart. The church has survived persecution, pestilence and war – many times. And many people who might not find tradition appealing still do want to connect with God - particularly in such times as these.

A friend pointed me to these words which the Roman philosopher Seneca wrote two thousand years ago in *On the Shortness of Life*:

'The greatest obstacle to living is expectancy, which hangs upon tomorrow and loses today... The whole future lies in uncertainty: live immediately.'

This was true then and it is true now, as we work through the changes which lie ahead, in our world and in the church. As Christians we know that at Pentecost God sent his Holy Spirit to inspire us with his love, and to renew the face of the earth: not to hanker for the past, nor to look for an idealised future with no risk, but to step out carefully, day by day, as change unfolds, knowing that God sets us free, to live, and to love our neighbours, and that he is with us, now.

With every blessing,

***Pauline***

## **Generosity in tough times**

I said that I would write something about generosity for this magazine... We are living through unprecedented times – very strange times for all of us. While I'm sure that all of us are looking forward to the day when we can once again be together, as I write the lockdown criteria have only just been very slightly eased – and while that currently means we can walk on a beach or stand in a garden with a loved one, it seems likely to take weeks – and probably months – until we return to something a little closer to normal, though still – probably - 2 metres apart.

In the meantime, many of you have been extremely generous in your support and care for each other (delivering shopping for people who must shield, sharing uplifting ideas, photos and videos of our surroundings, phoning people who have no other technology access etc) and for the wider community. This outpouring of love for neighbours has certainly been one of the very good things so far about this time of trial.

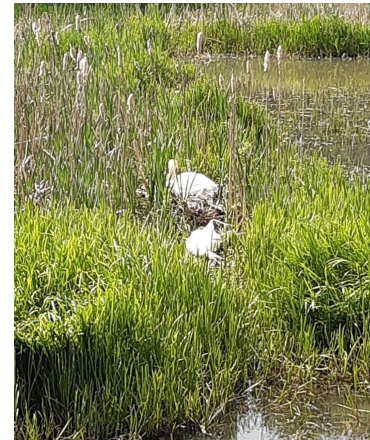
Many of you support us financially by standing order or direct debit, and we are very grateful also for these continuing gifts. Thank you for sticking with us! We have also heard that many of you who usually make gifts through cash in envelopes are putting the money aside – and we are most appreciative of your continued generosity and commitment.

Like churches across the whole Diocese we are reliant upon your generosity. If you usually donate using the envelope system you might want to change to a different method during the Coronavirus pandemic, to make it easier to continue to be generous during this time of isolation, especially when far fewer people seem to be using cash. There are different ways in which you can do this, such as setting up [a standing order or a direct debit](#) scheme, or if you are good with computers, you could try giving online using the link at the bottom of the front page of our website. If you want to set up a standing order or a direct debit please contact Donald Forster (donaldef123@gmail.com) for more information.

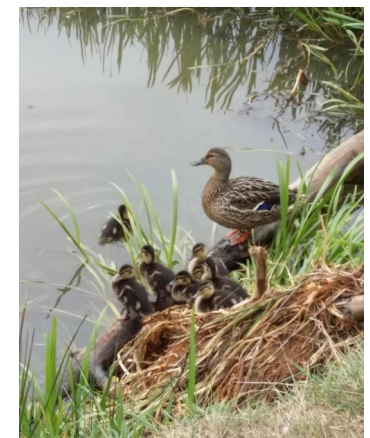
The birdsong was wonderful – like a full orchestra –of course this was so prominent because of the lack of traffic noise from the nearby bypass. This concert has continued throughout the weeks although now, as we enter week 9, the traffic noise is increasing on a daily basis!

At the Little Waters a pair of swans were beginning to make their nest.

During the ensuing weeks we have watched the patient sitting on the nest by either parent whilst the partner keeps guard on the water, and then joy of joy we were there to see Mum leave the nest with 6 chicks and take them into the water. I t was a special moment to see the family altogether. We think the family has now moved over to Big Waters as they are no longer to be seen on Little Waters. – probably a wise move for safety's sake



A few days prior to this, a mother duck brought her brood of ducklings out of the reeds and proudly posed for a photo. on the waters edge!





## LOCKDOWN “UPTIME”

At the beginning of this lockdown period, I made a decision that John and I would go out for a walk, everyday after morning coffee, for our daily exercise, and we have, in the main, managed to stick to that goal. I appreciate that we are fortunate to be able to go out through our back garden gate onto greenspace with easy access to woods and Little Waters, and that everyone does not have that privilege. I am truly grateful as it has afforded such a great insight into the wonders and beauty of the natural world on our doorstep. We have had the time to stop and listen, and to really SEE the flora and fauna. We have found paths and walks that we didn't know were there during the twenty odd years we have lived here! We are usually in the car leaving the estate to visit other places and generally rushing about! When we set out on that first week the trees were rather stark and bare but the buds were there waiting to burst into life. The ground cover was fairly sparse with a good covering of fir cones.



The DCC has been thinking about ways to help us catch up on giving, particularly in the light of the pandemic, and at our next meeting we will be looking at introducing the Parish Giving Scheme, which started in 2016 and is managed by the Diocese of Gloucester for the Church of England. The main difference it offers is that it allows you give more efficiently to our church and saves Donald valuable time in chasing up gift aid from HMRC. As well as a direct debit it includes optional inflationary giving and automated collection of Gift Aid. Many churches across the Diocese use the scheme and its methods are both tried and tested and secure.

Giving is the lifeblood of an organisation like the church. Every little helps – like everyone else we have lost regular income over lockdown, but still have bills to pay... If we are to continue to share God's love with our community, we might give time, we might give skills, and some of us might give money. In the autumn we will be taking the opportunity to review all our giving. Until then, and until we are all able to meet up safely, thank you again for your generosity in these difficult times.

*Pauline*



## AGM

The AGM has been postponed. A new date will be set as soon as possible and notification take place in the usual way. In the meantime if you would like to be on the Electoral Roll please let Hilary Cartwright (Electoral Roll Officer) know, by email [petercartwright\\_wideopen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:petercartwright_wideopen@yahoo.co.uk)

## VE Day memories

Friday 8th May 2020 was VE day and alongside my lovely mam Joan we joined friends Sylvia, Moira, Mary and others very different celebrations. keeping social distancing but sharing a bottle of wine and cake and listening to music and singing old Vera Lynn tunes. It was time to celebrate those brave wonderful servicemen and women, who had sacrificed to make sure of our freedom. For those who could remember to reminisce, what it was really like on that first VE day 75 years ago.

Sylvia remembered her Dad putting the radio on to listen to Winston Churchill's famous broadcast the street party cakes. scones and good things to eat all spread out and shared, sitting on long forms.



Moira although she said she couldn't remember the announcement did remember the flag waving and street party celebrations with jelly and ice cream.

Amazing Grace  
Away in a manger  
There is a green hill far away  
One more step along the world I go  
For all the saints  
Silent Night  
Lord of the dance  
Praise my soul the king of heaven  
Dear lord and Father of mankind  
Love divine all loves excelling

Beecher's Brook  
Fall  
Bucket  
Tide  
Delta  
Fountain  
Tap  
Hose  
River deep, Mountain high  
The connection is water

- 1 1945
- 2 Dignity, justice and equality for all and freedom from poverty.
- 3 To bring aid to the refugees of mainland Europe after the Second World War.
- 4 37 countries worldwide
- 5 10<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May

**Thank you to everyone who participated.**



## Christian Aid Quiz



This year, because of Covid-19 we were unable to hold our usual activities for Christian Aid Week. Instead a quiz was available from the church website in exchange for a donation to Christian Aid. Congratulations to our winners

Susan Brimer and mum, Joan.  
Ken and Marion Newitt  
John and Kathryn Wakefield

who all scored full marks. Well done

### The answers to the quiz are

Sinatra

Tin

Cromwell

Odysseus

La La

United Nations

Mastermind

Barcelona

Anemometer

Shearer

Wellington

Iris

Dog

Enid

Orinoco

Polly

Earth

Never Never land

St Columba's Wideopen



Mary Lobb said, " It was a joyous day which our small estate celebrated on the green by the river at Morpeth. Tables, chairs, lots of people and some food. I was six when the war started and remember how important the radio was for getting news. What a day it was when the all important announcement came 75 years ago."

Mary Main, aged ten when the war ended, remembered decorating the house with Union Jacks and bunting and having a party in the street with fun and food. "Everywhere was red, white and blue," she recalled.



And young Bertie marked the day too

These memories are so precious. The horror of war, for one day put to one side. This wonderful generation they gave everything for us. We must never take for granted what they did for us. Never forget.



## V E Day - Victory in Europe

### May 8th 1948

The memories of Steve Temperley's mother, Patricia.

"This date would stay in my mind because I was 15 that day and was at school, an ordinary school day.

When the announcement came via the radio—no one had television in those days !

There was a feeling of great relief—no more bombing raids, sirens and blackouts ! There were celebrations. Everyone was ecstatic.

We had a street party and all the neighbours pooled their rations and put up balloons and banners. The younger children got dressed up and everyone had a great time. It was a truly memorable moment in my life."

This year, on May 8th Patricia Temperley celebrated the 75th anniversary of VE Day—and her 90th birthday. Happy birthday !



Touch

Touch

Touch matters

Touch gently reassures

Touch is a gift

Touch tentatively or

With energy

But

Stay alert:

Do not touch

Door handles, light switches

Do not touch

him, her,

Me,

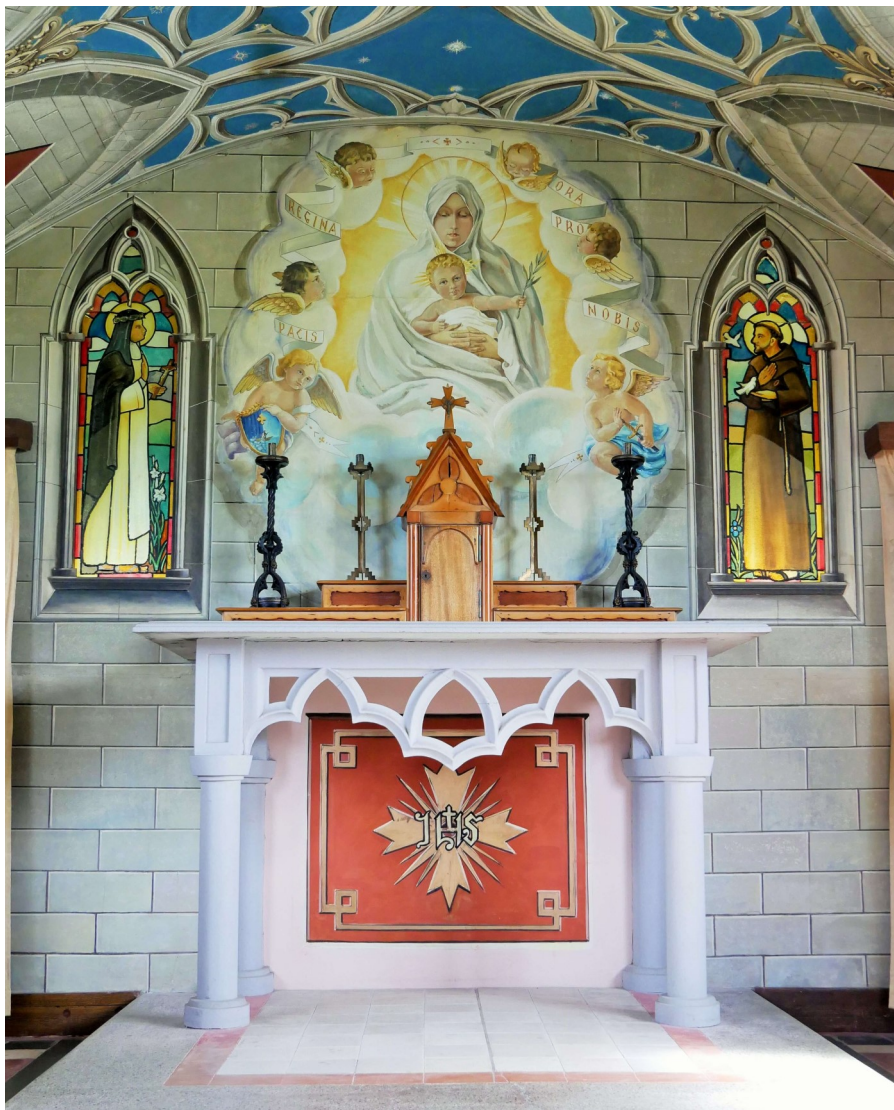
Or anyone.

Touch is human

Save lives:

Touch

Pauline Pearson



Just prior to the end of the war most prisoners were released, but Chiocchetti actually stayed behind to finish the little chapel that had become such a holy refuge for the prisoners. When he left, the chapel fell into disrepair, but was restored both in the 1950's and the 1990's.

The Italian Church is visited each year by thousands of people and looks forward to welcoming visitors again soon.

The memories of Joan  
Davison written by  
daughter Sue Brimer



My Mam was in Edinburgh. she was 16 but still at school and had gone to Edinburgh for a short holiday with her grandad who lived there with her aunties Bessy and Ethel. She remembered at 3 o'clock on VE day, huddled around the radio. What excitement, as they listened to Winston Churchill broadcast to the nation and after almost 6 years of war Churchill saying the Germans had surrendered. The war in Europe was over! X. No more blackouts, the lights could come on. Such relief that you could go out without worrying about the bombing, FREEDOM. Now was the time for some real celebration. With aunty Ethel, mam went straight to Princes Street and into the gardens. Everywhere was packed, but everyone was so happy. There were soldiers, sailors, airmen all dancing and singing in the street. She remembers the cheering, climbing of lampposts, flag waving. People shouting about liberty, freedom and a future no one had even dared to dream of. The songs she particularly remembered singing were all the ones everyone sang during the war, Blue birds over the white cliffs of Dover, We'll meet again, There'll always be an England. Mam danced and sang with the rest of them. Soldiers wanted to buy them drinks. But at 16 in those days that was simply not done. Auntie Ethel took her into the crammed ice cream parlours.

A sailor insisted on buying them both ice cream sundaes, knickerbocker glory. The love everyone had for each other, many of them complete strangers, it was something else, there was now hope for the future.

## The Italian Church, Orkneys

From National Churches Trust, May 2020



The Italian Church at Lamb Holm, Orkneys was the choice of the National Churches Trust as Church of the Week , May 15th 2020, in the midst of Lockdown. Built out of wartime necessity, the chapel stands after seventy years, as a reminder of a faith that flourished in adversity.

During World War II over 1000 Italian prisoners were brought to the Scottish Orkney Islands where they erected the deceptively simple place of worship now known simply as the Italian Chapel. Captured in North Africa and transported to Orkney, they were to assist with the building of the Churchill Barriers at Scappa Flow, the base of the Home Fleet, in order to make it more secure following the sinking of HMS Royal Oak with the loss of over 800 British sailors.

Low in spirits, the camp priest, Father Giacobazzi, approached the camp commandant, Major Buckland, to ask if they could build a chapel. Being sympathetic to the prisoners, he agreed and two Nissen huts were made available, one of which was used as the rec room. The huts were converted into a long chapel. On the front they built a wooden façade that gave the church a rather austere appearance. Inside the tin huts, the arched walls and ceiling were painted to give the impression the church was built of stone.

Domenio Chiocchetti, an artist, was tasked with painting a picture of the Madonna of the Olive Branch above the altar. Before he had left home his mother had given him a prayer card. He had kept it close with him throughout his capture and he used this as the basis for his design.

The central part depicts the Blessed Virgin holding the infant Jesus in her arms, he is offering his mother an olive branch, the symbol of peace. Many of the prisoners assisted Chiocchetti - including a blacksmith who crafted the rood iron screen, one of the outstanding features of the building. The unsightly corrugate iron of the Nissen huts was hidden by plasterboard and beautifully painted. The altar, altar rail and holy water stoop were moulded in concrete.



The glass in the two windows either side of the altar were painted with pictures of St Francis of Assisi and St Catherine of Sienna. Other symbols of peace include an angel holding the heraldic badge of Moena (Chiocchetti's, home town) which shows a man rowing his boat out of the storm towards the calm sea. On the ceiling the white dove of peace. The image of the Blessed Virgin is inscribed 'Regina pacis ora pro nobis' (Queen of Peace pray for us).