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8 Crimean connection

St Andrews Church, North Yorkshire

VICTORIAN 1837-1901

An Italian Gothic-influenced Victorian church on the Wolds is linked to Istanbul and the Crimea

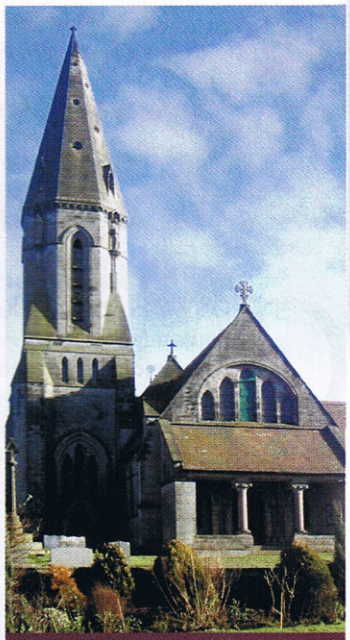
After the Crimean War ended in 1856, a competition was held to design a commemorative church to be built in Istanbul. In 1868 a church by the architect GE Street was eventually consecrated in Istanbul as a memorial to the fallen. Street had come second in the original competition but took over from Burges, the winner, and produced a new design.

Street's discarded competition design, however, was realised in miniature in 1877. St Andrews, East Heslerton, is one of 14 churches which a local landowner Sir Tatton Sykes, commissioned Street to modify or build.

The most distinctive feature carried over to Heslerton was the use of stepped lancet windows under a relieving arch. The open loggia along the west front is a simplified version of the Istanbul proposal, where the porch was intended to keep the interior of the church cool in the hot climate – hardly necessary on the north scarp of the Wolds. Pevsner commented on the Italian Gothic style of the porch pillars, and this echoes the Crimean proposals. Pevsner also noted how unusual for Street the sanctuary is, having a vaulted apse, but again the competition design included a vaulted apse though on a grander scale. It is not too fanciful to see the polygonal steeple, like that intended for Istanbul, as imitating a minaret.

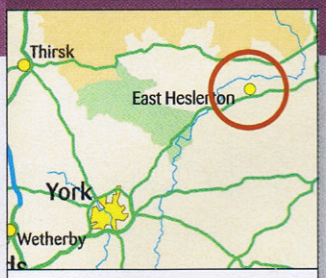
Nearby, the Sykes family's estate in Sledmere boasts some startlingly flamboyant memorials, including one to local First World War victims (the Wolds Waggoners). *Raymond Smith*

Don't miss the statues on the steeple which were originally created for Bristol Cathedral.



The west front with its open porch or loggia – designed for hotter climes

INFORMATION



St Andrews Church, East Heslerton, Malton, North Yorkshire
www.visitchurches.org.uk

Open by arrangement, please contact the Churches Conservation Trust
☎ 020 7213 0660

Malton tourist information
☎ 01653 600048.

If you like this try
www.yorkshirechurches.com

Place to visit nearby
Sledmere House where the Sykes family still live ☎ 01377 236637
www.sledmerehouse.com
VOUCHER see page 75

Listen to Jane Baker recount her childhood in the area in the 1960s:
www.bl.uk/collectbritain/eastyorkshire

9 Chapel of peace

The Italian Chapel, Orkney

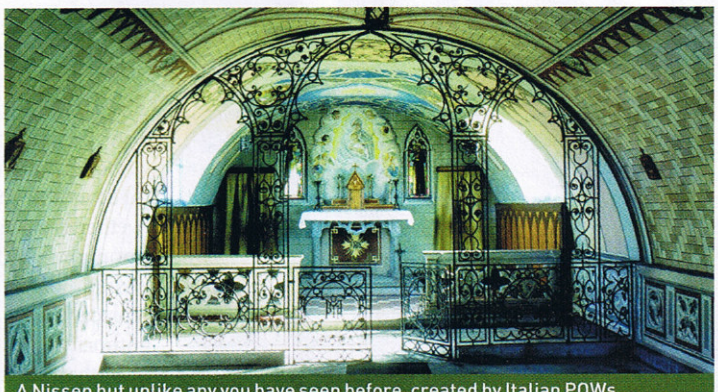
MODERN 1901-Present

Created by Italian prisoners of war during the Second World War, the Italian Chapel is a place of beauty and a symbol of peace

Apart from the nearby statue of St George, the Italian Chapel of Lamb Holm, Orkney, is the only remaining relic of Camp 60 which housed several hundred Italian prisoners during the later years of the Second World War.

When you enter the small chapel, your eyes are drawn immediately to the beautiful altarpiece, based on an original painting of the Madonna and Child by Nicolo Barabina. The re-creation here is the work of artist Domenico Chiocchetti, one of the prisoners, who had carried a small copy of the painting with him throughout the war. Chiocchetti and his fellow POWs were given two army Nissen huts to build into a chapel. The result, with its interior decorated entirely from scrap material, is stunning. The prisoners disguised the corrugated iron of the huts with plasterboard and moulded the altar and holy water stoop from concrete. The wood for the tabernacles came from a shipwreck and the gold curtains either side of the sanctuary were paid for from the prisoners' welfare fund. Even after the war had ended, Chiocchetti stayed on to complete the chapel font. In 1960, he returned to carry out restorative work and after his death in 1999, a memorial requiem, attended by his family, was held in the chapel. *Jane MacNamee*

Don't miss the delicate wrought iron metal work of the rood screen, by Palumbi – it took him four months.



A Nissen hut unlike any you have seen before, created by Italian POWs

INFORMATION



The Italian Chapel, Lamb Holm, East Mainland, Orkney
www.visitorkney.com

Open daily

Kirkwall tourist information
☎ 01856 872856

If you like this try
Churches to Visit in Scotland, Scotland's Churches Scheme (National Museums of Scotland, 2004)

Place to visit nearby
Tomb of the Eagles, South Ronaldsay. Prehistoric burial cairn ☎ 01856 831339 *www.tombofthe eagles.co.uk*

See how Italy once saw the Orkneys in a 16th-century Italian map of Britain:
www.bl.uk/collectbritain/mapbritain

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