Guide to the Catholic Church of St Peter, Ludlow

Foundation Stone

The foundation stone of the church (in the rear of the back curved wall of the sanctuary) was laid by Bishop Ambrose Moriarty and blessed on the 9th May 1935.

The Foundation Stone

Architectural Design

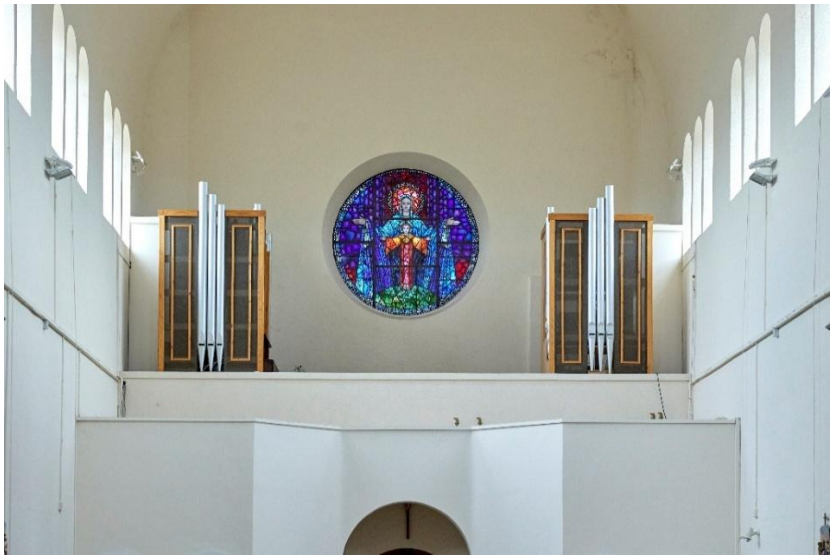
The church is built in natural stone from Oreton Quarry at Farlow, Clee Hill. The barrel roof, dome, arches and pillars are of reinforced concrete a unique use of new technology at the time. The Architect was Signor Dr. Giuseppe Rinvolucri of Conway 1894 – 1963.

The dimensions of the church are: length 150ft, width 75ft, height to the cross on the dome 100ft. The style is neo-Byzantine and plain Romanesque.

Photograph taken in June 2025

Interior

A short Latin Cross to ensure clear sight of the dome at all angles. Vast and full of light, reminiscent of the grandeur and majesty of buildings of the spacious pre-Reformation days in Latin countries. The digital organ came from Wyverns of Surrey in September 1997. It has two manuals and pedal board and is fitted with 'draw' stops arranged in panels to the left and right of the manuals. There are eight speakers mounted in a case on the right-hand side of the back gallery and decorated with silver-finished pipes. The pipe organ on the left-hand side of the gallery came from the Catholic Church at Newport, Shropshire. After delivery at St Peter's, it was painstakingly sorted and assembled by John Davies of Leintwardine.



Photograph taken in June 2025

Photograph taken in June 2025

The Dome

In the Byzantine style and signifying heaven and earth united in praising God. The original motif for the interior of the dome was that of a dove, representing the Holy Spirit. In May 1993, however, Philip Jackson designed and made the current decoration. The twelve stars in gold leaf depict St Peter and the other Apostles.

PHOT0GRAPH BY NIGEL BISHOP

The Dome

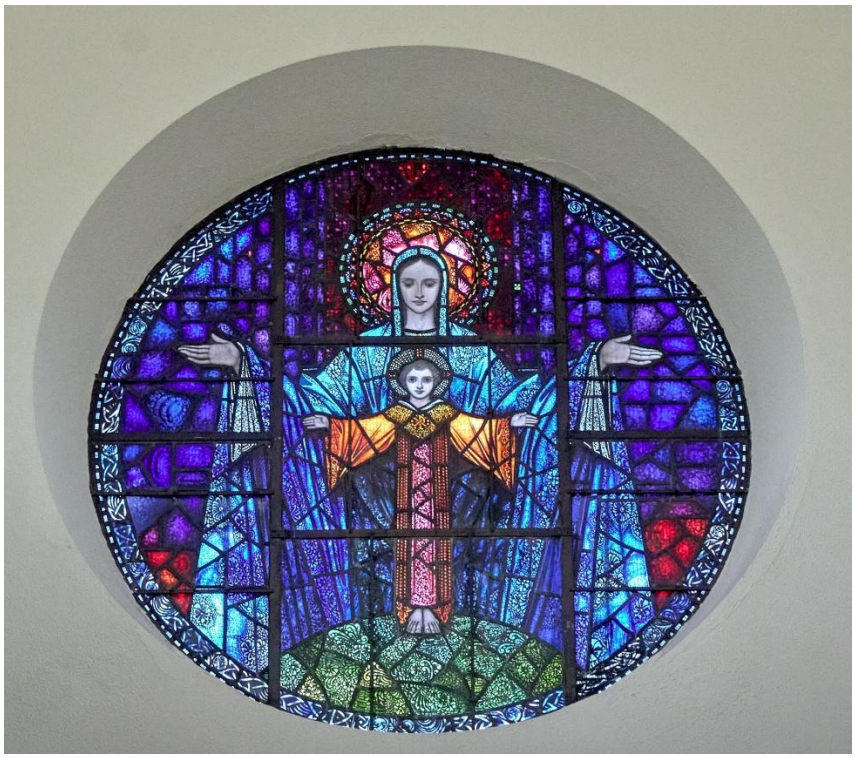
East Window

The stained-glass window at the east end is full of Ludlow Blue tint made by Hardman of Birmingham who also restored the glass in Ludlow's pre-Reformation Parish Church of St Laurence. The window came from the original church in Julian Hall and is dated 1906. The figures from left to right are St Peter, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and St George. The inscription is to Isobel Brown, the foundress of the church, and the window is dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in memory of John Pearson. It had originally been unveiled on 31 January 1909, having been commissioned by W.H. Pearson of Buenos Aires.

Photograph of East Window taken in June 2025

West Window

The rose window at the west end was designed by Earleys of Dublin in 1963 and shows Our Lady presenting the Christ Child to the world.



Photograph of West Window taken in June 2025

Crucifix

The wooden crucifix was specially carved for the Church by Aloisi Lang, the village carpenter of Oberammergau who played the role of Christ in the Passion Plays for 30 years.

Photograph of crucifix taken in June 2025

Tapestry

The tapestry adorning the Lady Chapel was designed and worked by Miss Barbara Fletcher of Mary Knowle. She was a convert and was received into the Church on the 24th of March 1950.

The flowers depicted were all grown in her garden and she adorned the church with such flowers for many years. It measures five yards in length, one yard in width, has a million and a half stitches and used six pounds of wool. Started in 1962, it was completed and blessed in 1965. In 1984, Miss Fletcher was awarded the Bene Merenti medal for her tireless work and outstanding generosity.

Photograph of Tapestry taken in September 2025

Photograph of Baptismal Font taken in August 2025

Photograph of the Statue of our Patron Saint, Saint Peter taken September 2025

Stations of the Cross

The fourteen Stations of the Cross were supplied by Gortings of Ludlow and were painted by their employee Bernard Davies, who was a parishioner.

The Thirteenth Station of the Cross

Memorial Plaque

Squadron Leader B A “Jimmy” James MC, survivor of the Great Escape from Stalag Luft III, was an active member of our parish family. A memorial plaque has been placed in the church to commemorate a life devoted to the cause of individual freedom.

Memorial Plaque