

# ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH PRECINCT

ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH HAS BEEN CENTRAL TO THE MOSMAN PARK COMMUNITY FOR OVER A CENTURY.



ALEXANDRA HALL, 2013.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF TOWN OF MOSMAN PARK

## ST LUKE'S SPORTING PAST

IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH ACQUIRED FREEHOLD LAND ON THE CORNER OF MONUMENT AND WILLIS STREETS. THIS LAND, NOW OCCUPIED BY A HOUSE AND COMMUNITY GARDEN, WAS THE HOME OF THE ST LUKE'S TENNIS CLUB BETWEEN 1924 AND 1973.

AFTER BEING EXTREMELY ACTIVE IN THE 1930S, THE TENNIS CLUB SLUMPED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR BUT WAS REVIVED IN 1946 AFTER THE WAR ENDED. ACCORDING TO ONE RESIDENT OF THE TIME, ST LUKE'S TENNIS CLUB WAS A 'REAL SOCIAL CLUB' WHERE PEOPLE WHO HAD NEVER PLAYED TENNIS LEARNED FROM THOSE WHO HAD.

*'The hall was filled with young people and we had a wonderful time learning to dance there – no special teachers just everyone helping others.'*

DAGMAR GUTHRIE



ST LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 2014.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF TOWN OF MOSMAN PARK



(ABOVE): ATTENDEES OF A FANCY DRESS PARTY HELD IN ALEXANDRA HALL, C. 1920.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF THE GROVE LIBRARY

(RIGHT): THE RESTORED RECTORY AT 1 WILLIS STREET, 2014.  
IMAGE COURTESY OF TOWN OF MOSMAN PARK



Built in 1897, this limestone church was the first church in the local area. The original rectangular building seated approximately 150 people but was enlarged to seat twice this number in 1904. Over the following decades, new furnishings and fittings were added and alterations undertaken to make the church what it is today.

The wooden building to the right is Alexandra Hall. Built in 1903 to accommodate Sunday School classes, it soon became the focal point of community activity. From the 1920s onwards, the hall hosted picture shows for up to 350 people, together with smaller gatherings for dances, club meetings, and public events. An Op Shop, still running today, started in the 1970s when the hall was partitioned and the hall continues to host a variety of community events.

A third heritage building in this precinct is the Rectory, which stands around the corner at 1 Willis Street. This beautiful old home was built in 1899 and underwent major renovations in 2012 to restore its function as a rectory.

Well-known architect Sir John Talbot Hobbs is responsible for the design of the St Luke's Precinct, including the 1904 church extension, Alexandra Hall and the Rectory at 1 Willis Street. To have three of his buildings together makes this site unique.

