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ST. LUKE'S CHURCH AND ORGAN

152 Herries Street



St Luke's Anglican Church is an unusual example of a bluestone church in Queensland. Designed by prominent 19th century ecclesiastical architect John Hingeston Buckeridge, who was invited to design a permanent establishment that would replace the previous timber slab building constructed in the mid-1850s.

In the 1840s, Reverend Benjamin Glennie had settled in the region and purchased a block of land at the corner of Herries and Ruthven Streets for the construction of a church. The original building served as a classroom during the week and a place of worship on Sundays, making it the first parish church in the area. A memorial stone on the church property recognises the formation of the church in 1857.

As Toowoomba began to grow, services shifted to the new church at the corner of Russell and Mort Streets. Although school lessons remained at St Luke's, debate surrounded the location of Sunday services. In 1891, the Toowoomba parish was divided into a northern and southern region and services resumed in St Luke's.

In 1892, the Diocesan architect John Hingeston Buckeridge designed St Luke's Church as a traditional Gothic revival church, with a cruciform plan, steeply pitched roof, lancet windows, stained glass, a decorated interior and a belltower which was never built. Instead, a freestanding timber belltower was erected in 1932.

The nave, with temporary chancel and vestry, was dedicated in 1897. In 1907 an organ from Norman and Beard of Norwich, England was installed in the eastern end of the building at a cost of £744. An electric blower was installed in the 1950s and the organ was renovated in 1994. In 1945, the congregation, under the leadership of Canon Shand, envisioned the completed church as a war memorial. However, building the eastern extensions, designed by Charles Beresford Marks, proved to be a huge undertaking. The work was done in stages and completed by 1959. At this time, the foundations for the south transept were laid but this area is still yet to be completed. In the

1960s, the organ was relocated to an organ loft near the altar and in the 1990s, the church was replastered.

In the northern transept of the church is a Warriors Chapel with a carved timber altar and two 'colours' (battle flags) above the seating. The church houses a large collection of memorial tablets, windows, stones and honour boards relating to the World Wars.

// The stained glass window dedicated to the Griffith family is designed by noted artist William Bustard and dates from 1947. It is inspired by a window in the Chartres Cathedral in France and depicts the enthroned Virgin Mary holding the Divine Son.



When to go: 10.30am to 4.00pm

Where to go: 152 Herries Street, Toowoomba

Tours: Self guided

Guided tours are also available (30 minutes), booking required - 4639 1910

Building type: Church, Hall and organ

Built: 1897 - 1959

Architects: John Hingeston Buckeridge, H.J. Marks

Web: www.stlukestowoomba.org.au

13b

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH HALL

152 Herries Street

TOowoomba



St Lukes Church Hall constructed in 1911 is an elaborate Anglican Parish Hall designed by prominent architect Harry J Marks of the prominent Marks family of Toowoomba architects.

The building which sits to the south of the church is the Church Hall designed by HJ Marks and constructed in 1911 in response to the need for a schoolroom and parish hall on the Anglican Church precinct established by Rev Benjamin Glennie in 1854.

The original St Lukes Church served for many years as a parish hall once it was replaced by the new church designed by Buckeridge in 1897, but by 1908 the need for a larger hall that could also act as a primary school had become urgent.

The design for the new hall was prepared by HJ (Harry) Marks and a contract signed by H Andrews to complete the work.

Harry and his brother Reginald were both architects and sons of well-known local architect James Marks, whose firm they both



joined, Harry in 1903. The practice was responsible for many of Toowoomba's significant buildings, and Harry was well known for his innovative approach to providing good ventilation and natural lighting.

Both of these features, trademarks of the architects' work, are evident in the hall at St Luke's, as is the use of Marks' patented construction method and elaborate decoration.

The hall is rectangular with a nave and side aisles in the manner of a church, with timber entrance porches at each end. The corrugated iron roof pitches to both the main area and side aisles and feature ventilating gables regularly spaced along the elevation. The ridge is capped with curious Byzantine-like ventilation cupolas.

The main body of the building is constructed using an unusual technique of applying cement over wire-mesh on a timber frame, a system also used by Marks on the main building at the Glennie School.

The interior of the hall is a large and well lit space with a timber floor, generous clerestory windows, and a vaulted timber ceiling.

The hall is still used for social functions today.

// Some of Harry Marks' patented innovations, such as his Austral windows, were used as far away as the United States during the 1920s.

When to go: 10.30am to 4.00pm

Where to go: 152 Herries Street, Toowoomba

Tours: Self guided
2.00pm Guided tour with conservation Architect Ivan McDonald

Building type: Church Hall

Built: 1911

Architects: H.J. (Harry) Marks

Web: www.stlukestoowoomba.org.au