

15 **The vestry:** also added in 1983, functional but not as splendid as the arched structure of Fr Taff's vision.

16 **Outside the building:**

i) **The land:** donated by Dan Hart, pioneer cedar cutter (from 1874) and settler (1878).

ii) **Raintrees:** planted by Fr Taffs from seed imported from Jamaica by Dan Hart.

iii) **Commemorative Stone:** plaques noting

a) use of the 'Men's Reading Room' as temporary church from 1911 to 1952;

b) celebration in 2002 to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of commencement of the church and the 50th Anniversary of its completion.

Come to a Service:

Every Sunday 7.30 am; Thursday 9am.

Also come to Mossman 'Raintrees' Market

Every Saturday morning: Mossman's meeting place for community and visitors.

More information:

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**The Anglican Church of Australia
Parish of Mossman/Port Douglas**

History of construction

Construction of the current St David's Church commenced in 1912, soon after the original wooden St David's was destroyed by cyclone in March 1911 and its furnishings swept away by floods soon after. Some highlights of the 40 year journey to completion:

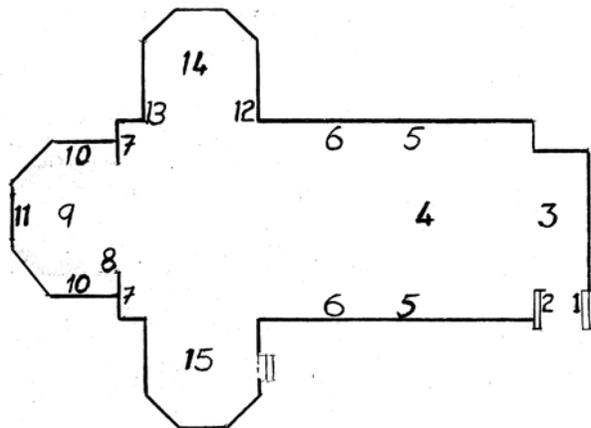
- Good building stone was found at a cane property alongside the Mossman River.
- The outbreak of World War I (1914) delayed construction.
- When work recommenced in 1919, the cement was scarce and expensive. In 1921 it was unobtainable.
- A cyclone in 1920 severely damaged buildings; repairs drained parish funds. Construction went on 'hold'.
- By 1934 a worldwide economic depression made fund-raising extremely difficult.
- World War II caused another pause as partly built church walls stood for several years without a roof.
- Although designed to feature domed ceilings based on an Orthodox Christian style of architecture, the costs of construction prompted replacement with a steep, peaked roof which was not so costly.
- Finally, on 27 Sept 1952, Bishop John Hudson dedicated the church, forty years, two World Wars and one global economic depression after work had first commenced on the building.

Additions after dedication included a vestry and chapel, stained glass windows and a colourful tiled mosaic of the risen Christ. The bell, a piece of marble from St Paul's Cathedral London and a fragment of the stone cross of St David's Cathedral, Hobart, add to the historicity of the church.

A brief guide to St David's Anglican Church Mossman

St David's is a beautiful stone church, commenced in 1912 after the destruction by cyclone in 1911 of the original wooden St David's and completed in 1952. The church was added to the National Trust of Queensland's Register of Significant Places in 2008.





1 The bell: Originally a ship's bell from the Glasgow-built SS Woonona (wrecked 1893 at Fitzroy River, Queensland), the bell was donated by the family of JD Johnston, pioneer settler (1883) of 'Mango Park', where it was used for some time as a meal bell for farm workers.

2 Fragment from St David's Cathedral Hobart (left side of entrance): Mossman identity, R D Rex, who was the first child baptised in St David's Cathedral, Hobart (1874), suggested that the original Mossman Church (built in 1899) be called St David's. The link with the Hobart Cathedral was cemented in 1955 when a fragment of the stone cross of St David's Cathedral was presented to the Mossman Church.

3 Baptismal Font (*at the entrance to signify baptism as an entry point to the life of the church*): donated in memory of Richard and Mary Jones, pioneer settlers (1878) and active church members during the construction of the original St David's (1899).

4 Silky Oak Pews: made locally by wood artisan George Pitcher for the new church, 1952. [Pews are traditional Anglican Church seating, common in English churches from the Reformation (16th C) when longer services made it important to provide seating for the congregation.]

5 Stained glass windows: created (1988) by stained glass artist Chris Oswald (Bartle Frere); featuring Christ blessing children (west); Christ the Good Shepherd plus St Andrew and St David (north); and Mary with child Jesus plus St Margaret and St Hilda (south); donated as a memorial to Dorothy Kieseker.

5a Needlework: St Margaret is remembered for time devoted to ecclesiastical needlework (bottom frame). Handwork in this church is seen in the cross-stitched Lord's Prayer near the pulpit (Sue Schubert) and crochet on altar cloths (Joan Vico).

6 Stations of the Cross: fourteen pictures depicting Christ's journey to crucifixion, installed (1962) in memory of Robert Johnston, grandson of pioneer settler Samuel Johnston of 'Drumsara'. Robert was invalided during war service on the Kokoda Trail. [Sue Schubert has restored the original sketches using acrylics on glass]

7 Seasonal Banners: purple, white, red or green depending on the church 'season', with appropriate motifs – recently created (2009) by local artists Ron Sorensen, Lorraine Carrington and Bev Barrett.

8 Pulpit (featuring a cross inlaid with glass): made locally by George Pitcher for the stone church.

9 Sandstone altar: donated in memory of Dick and Leo Johnston, also grandsons of Samuel Johnston. Dick, a doctor, went down with the hospital ship Centaur in 1943; Leo was shot down over Europe in WWII. [An altar was traditionally a table for offering sacrifices. In Christian churches, the altar has on it the bread and wine of the Eucharist, representing Christ's body and blood – his sacrifice for all. This altar also embodies remembrance of sacrifice for country by two sons of Mossman].

10 Coloured woodwork at sides of sanctuary: carved by Fr Edward Taffs and some local boys about 1918 to adorn the church when completed.

11 Sanctuary mosaic: depicting the risen Christ; created by Stan Moses (Atherton Tableland) 1990.

12 Egg and dart moulding from St Paul's Cathedral (on each side of the entrance to the chapel): 17th Century marble fragments from St Paul's Cathedral, London (brought to Cooktown about 1920, before installation in St David's in 1964) and now used as elevated vase stands.

13 Table at chapel entrance: made by Doug Crees snr when a teenager (c. 1930) under instruction from Fr Edward Taffs.

14 Chapel: added in 1983. The altar was made locally by Bill Wiltshire using silky oak from the property of M and J Vico. Wall hangings: The Annunciation (donated by Mr WS Reese); St David's Cathedral, Hobart (sketch); Mary and baby Jesus (donated by Rev A Morrison); Orthodox Madonna and child (donated by Mrs Mara Vico).