

St Albans Road

The first mention of St Albans Road in Kelley's Directory is in 1901. Entrance to it is just above No.90 Church Road, the residence of William Kentish. Presumably it was he who was responsible for the construction of the road linking Kingswood Road with Church Road. According to his great grandson, the family came from St Albans, hence the name. The O.S. Map of 1904 shows seven houses on the east side and some twenty terrace houses on the west side backing onto the railway cutting. Previously this had been open ground and a gravel pit. Eventually subsidence occurred and in the 1980s and 1990s six houses at the upper end of the terrace were demolished and replaced with four two-storey houses in 1998. These were owned in 2010 by Trident Housing Association providing residential care for disabled people.



St Albans Road 2014.



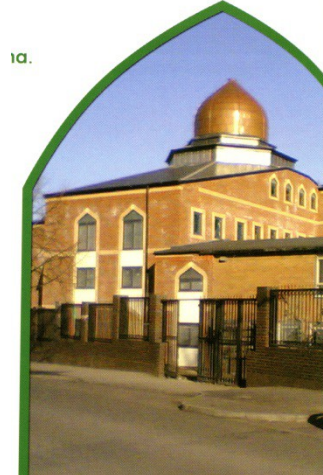
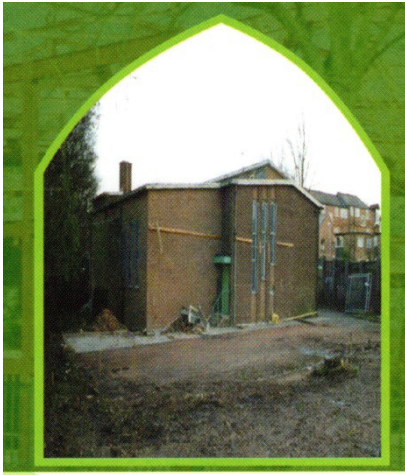
The lower end of St Albans Road 2014.

On the 1916 O.S. Map the upper end of the road was still flanked by gardens. In 1928, the long garden of No. 92 Church Road was developed with the construction of three pairs of semi-detached houses by a speculative builder, Mr Marsh, my Father, Baron Collingwoode Seymour Underhill (*Please see article 'A Moseley Architect'*) being the architect. My father purchased one, No.62, and Mr Marsh another, No.56. The land for No.62 cost £120 and the house cost £750. No.92 Church Road was sold to the Moseley and District Churches Housing Association in the 1980s. It was demolished and replaced with a block of six flats fronting onto St Albans Road completed in 1988.



Four of the houses built in the Arts and Crafts style by Baron Collingwoode Seymour Underhill in the late 1920s.

On the opposite corner of Church Road No.90 was acquired by the R.C. Diocese together with the two adjoining properties around 1960. The houses were demolished and a new community centre was built, which was also used for additional services pending the construction of a church. However, plans for a new church were abandoned and the site sold. In 1992 it was purchased by the Muslim Community, based in Woodstock Road since 1969. The existing building was converted for use as a mosque and was later extended at a cost of £3m.



The Mosque in St Albans Road.

Graham Underhill