



FOUNDED 1908

THE
Glennie
SCHOOL

The Glennie School

Chapel of St Alban



All She Can Be®

Chapel of St Alban

The original Glennie School, known then as the Church of England Girls' Grammar School, opened to students in 1908 and was located at St Alban's House in Russell Street, Toowoomba. The new boarding school, on The Glennie School's current site, opened in Herries Street on 10 August 1910.

The dream of a Glennie School chapel was realised in 1917 after a chapel fund was set up by the first Principal of the School, Miss Grace Lawrance (1908 to 1925). The money raised by students, staff and parents filled the major portion of the funds needed for the building of the Chapel. On 11 December 1917, The Glennie Chapel was officially opened and dedicated by the first Archbishop appointed to the Brisbane Diocese, Most Reverend St Clair Donaldson, a forceful personality who was instrumental in the establishment and foundation of The Glennie School. The cost of the Chapel was £535 without furniture or an organ. It had seating capacity for 90 to 100 people.

The Chapel of St Alban still serves as a quiet resting place for prayer and meditation for Glennie students, staff and community members. It is the focus for the School's religious education. Since its opening in 1917 it has been a source of comfort and inspiration to the School family, especially in times of war and crisis.



The Glennie Chapel of St Alban

The Original Chapel 1917

The Glennie Chapel is a single storey wooden structure set in the picturesque grounds of The Glennie School. Mr William Hodgen, a local architect was responsible for the defining features of many of the buildings in Toowoomba and Darling Downs during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The Chapel is one such building and is a good example of Hodgen's work integrating motifs of the Arts and Crafts movement with the local timber building tradition, for which he is known.



The Glennie Chapel, 1917

The Chapel was named after St Alban's Cathedral in England, the Cathedral where Miss Grace Lawrance's uncle was Dean for some time. St Alban was Britain's first Christian martyr. Many of the features of the original Chapel can still be found in existence today. A detailed description of the original Chapel can be found in *The Glennie Gazette* of April 1918:



Interior of the Chapel, 1917

The Chapel is built of wood, painted on the outside, while the screen is of silky oak. It is very simple in design but very effective in the dignity to the whole. The windows are leaded casements, and are of pale green cathedral glass edged with a narrow strip of deep crimson. There are plenty of windows set at a convenient height, opening easily, thus affording ample ventilation. Round the windows, and at equal distances on the semi arched roof, the architect has placed strips of silky oak, stained dark brown.

The altar, seats, lectern, chair and prayer desk are all of dark polished pine, as is also the floor of the Chapel and the sanctuary. There are double doors at the north and south entrances.

The altar is very beautiful and most uncommon. The reredos and the frontal are panelled. The design was adapted by the architect from one in an English church catalogue. Some of the panels are plain, and others have the sacred monogram in various designs in poker work. The centre panel is a real work of art, and is much admired by everyone who sees it . . .

The panels were hand crafted by 1917 Glennie staff member Miss Ray Black and a Glennie student, who excelled at art, Marjory Dawes.

The altar rails are of silky oak and are in a simple graceful design. The graded brass altar cross, which represents faith, hope and charity, was given to the Chapel by one of the original Glennie staff members, Miss Eva Manning, and stands above the reredos. On the altar, stand two handsome brass vases and a brass book-rest, while on the credence bracket, also of silky oak, are kept the brass alms dish and collection plates. A beautiful missal, the gift of Rev'd Hugh S Chignall was sent from England and sits poised on the brass book rest . . . The sanctuary carpet is a warm red, velvet pile and the same colour scheme is carried out in the super-frontal, kneelers and matting running down the aisles.

THE INTERNAL MEASUREMENTS OF THE ORIGINAL CHAPEL

- Length: 47ft (14.33 m)
- Width: 19ft (5.79m)
- Ceiling Height: (internal semi-arched roof) 15ft (4.57m)
- Vestry: 8ft (2.44m) long x 7ft (2.13m) long.
- Northern & Southern Porches: 4ft 6 in (1.22m) long x 7ft (2.13m) wide
- Passageway linking the Shoulders: 19ft (5.79m) long x 7ft (2.13m) wide
- Organ Recess: 4ft 6 in (1.37m) wide x 6ft 8in (2.02m)

The high-pitched roof of the Chapel is expressed internally as a semi-arched ceiling, while the interior is detailed in pine joinery, flooring and wall linings, with features and mouldings highlighted in darker silky-oak. The original Chapel entrance way was served by two sets of double doors on the northern and southern sides of the Chapel. In the centre of the passageway that linked the shoulders, facing east was a set of double casement windows which allowed air and breezes to filter through the Chapel when opened in conjunction with the casement windows in the nave.

The vestry was located on the southern side of the Chapel and serviced by a single internal entry door from the nave and a single door and set of external stairs on the western side of the vestry. The organ recess was located off the nave on the southern side of the building adjoining the southern porch.

Nine rows of polished pine pews were located on either side of the Chapel's centre aisle. The silky oak screen, with three arches, formed the back wall of the nave.

Worshippers passed under the centre arch of the screen from the passageway to enter the nave.

Once the Chapel was completed, Miss Lawrance took a Sunday evening service on a regular basis and in so doing, nurtured a sense of deep and abiding fellowship within the School. After Miss Lawrance left Glennie, a stained glass window was unveiled in the Chapel in her honour and dedicated on 17 November, 1925. Whilst the original Chapel had served the School faithfully for ten years, student numbers grew quickly, and extensive renovations became necessary to cater for the increasing numbers.



Original Chapel with Grace Lawrance memorial window in far right hand side double casement, 1925

Chapel Extensions & Renovations 1927-1929

In 1927, it was decided to enlarge the nave to increase seating space to accommodate the whole School. Once again the architect, William Hodgson was contracted to draw up the plans, and in 1928 and early 1929 the alterations and extensions to the Glennie Chapel were carried out. The Chapel was ready for the commencement of the School year in 1929.

The length of the original building was increased by 12 feet. The porch area was added on the western end, forming the new front of the Chapel. The original interior of the Chapel was reversed with the altar and the main window moved 180° to face the east. The chancel and sanctuary were again placed on an elevated platform three steps up from the nave.



The altar and main window, 1929



Chapel showing new porch on western end

The original entrances on the north and south shoulders were built in and casement windows added in the space where the double doors had been. The double casement window facing east in the passageway was also removed and the altar placed in the space where the passageway had been. This in actual fact added another seven feet to the internal length to

the Chapel. The screen was left at the eastern end of the Chapel but moved a couple of metres westwards from its original position. The chancel screen then marked the entry to the new chancel and sanctuary. The altar rails, made of silky oak, were re-fitted to the eastern end of the Chapel, almost midway between the screen and the altar.

The position of the original vestry on the southern side of the Chapel became the new side entrance. Many of the building items removed from the original Chapel during the renovations and alterations, such as doors and casement windows were re-used and incorporated into the final design. The organ recess was closed in on the south-eastern corner of the Chapel and the opening blocked off. The area that previously housed the original organ recess was incorporated into the new Vestry extension. The vestry was re-located to the



The original silky oak altar rails are still in used today

south-east corner where entry was gained from the exterior, by a new door on the southern shoulder. A set of casement windows was removed from the original Chapel to make a doorway from the new vestry into the nave. The organ recess was moved to the northern wall between the screen and the front row of pews. The Grace Lawrance memorial window, originally placed in the Chapel in 1925, was moved

from the north-western corner, to hold 'pride of place' above the new position of the altar. In the nave of the Chapel, on the northern side where the organ is now situated, sit 15 rows of pews evenly spaced, and on the southern side, due to the new entrance way and placement of the vestry, there are 13 rows of pews, each with fold away kneelers.

The Sanctuary Lamp 1937

On Easter eve 1937, Helen Joyce Rowton was killed along with her father in a motor vehicle accident in Brisbane. Helen was first enrolled at The Glennie Preparatory School in 1934 and also attended The Glennie School in ensuing years. She was admitted as a Prefect a few weeks before her death. Her sunny disposition and caring nature endeared her to the entire school. A requiem mass was held at The Glennie Chapel in honour of Helen.

The sanctuary lamp was installed in the Chapel in 1937 in memory of Helen and was a reminder for The School community to keep lit the light of Jesus in their hearts. It was originally an oil burning lamp, however it has since been converted to run on electricity.



The sanctuary lamp



The Glennie Chapel today

The Glennie Chapel 2014

The Glennie Chapel of St Alban, a living museum, built during World War I, serves as the focus for the School's religious education and was a great source of comfort to the School during times of hardship and war. It's a place of worship and solace for staff and students and is a quiet resting place for prayer and meditation for the whole Glennie community. The Chapel has been

host to many bishops and archbishops during its lifetime, as well as the chaplains of The Glennie School who have kept the spirit alive for the thousands of students who have passed through the halls of Glennie, and made their way in the world, safe in the knowledge of their faith, and the sisterhood of The Glennie School.



The Glennie Chapel Memorial Windows

Grace Lawrance Memorial Window



The Grace Lawrance memorial stained glass window (the window in the centre of the picture below) was unveiled in St Alban's Chapel on 17 November 1925 and dedicated by Reverend J E Norman Osborn. When first installed in the original Chapel, its home was the far north-western window beside the altar. However, after the renovations, it was moved to sit behind the altar and is still a beautiful sight to behold with the morning

sun streaming through the many brilliant colours of the stained glass. The leaded stained glass window depicts the figure of Christ as the Good Shepherd. The figure in its crimson and purple robes stands out in bold relief, with clustered field flowers and little white lamb at his feet and a lamb held tenderly in his arms. On the left of the figure of Christ is a coloured facsimile of the school badge and on the right is a beautifully designed crown and stars. Underneath is the inscription "A M D G. In Grateful Recognition of the Work of Grace Lawrance, Principal 1908 to 1925". The Grace Lawrance memorial window was placed in the Chapel by the Glennie Old Girls' Association and current students of the time to honour and commemorate the work of Miss Grace Lawrance who was a much loved Head of School. The letters A M D G are Latin for 'ad majorem Dei gloriam' which means 'For the greater glory of God'.



The Grace Lawrance (centre) and Margaret Brown Memorial windows (side windows)

Margaret Brown Memorial Windows



On 7 October 1956, the Archbishop of Brisbane, Most Reverend Reginald Charles Halse, dedicated two stained glass windows in the Chapel, a gift from the Glennie Old Girls Association in memory of Miss Margaret Brown, Principal of Glennie from 1925 to 1938. She graciously led The School through the economic upheaval and hard times of The Great Depression, the poliomyelitis epidemic of 1932, and decreasing boarding school numbers due to severe droughts.

A dominant characteristic of her warm and friendly nature was a deep sense of the importance of faith. She made the Chapel the living centre of the School, impressing on the girls the importance of religion in their everyday lives. Her warmth and understanding were most comforting to the students. The two Margaret Brown windows flank the Grace Lawrance window, the left hand side window representing 'Devotion' which characterises ardent, selfless affection and dedicated loyalty. The right hand window, 'Mother and Child', represents the way Margaret Brown watched over, nourished and protected the girls at Glennie.

Gwen Dowson Memorial Window



On 11 October 1965, a stained glass window was installed in honour of Miss Gwen Dowson, Principal of The Glennie School from 1939 to 1962. The dedication service for the Gwen Dowson window was conducted by the Archbishop of Brisbane, Most Reverend Philip Strong. (Primate of Australia 1966-1970). The window is on the western end of the Chapel above the double doors and contains the quote: 'I was a stranger and ye took me in'. Miss Dowson led The School through the shortages of

the World War II, at the beginning of which, part of The School was commandeered for use as a military hospital and The Glennie Preparatory School moved to Smithfield. Ingenuity, patience and co-operation by the many groups that made up The School's complement, overcame the problems associated with shortages of essential items during wartime. Her scholarship, sense of right and wrong, tempered by a keen sense of humour and her interest in the girls endeared Gwen Dowson to many.



Miss Kathleen Simmons Window



In celebration of Miss Kathleen Simmons's time as Head of School, a further stained glass window was set in the Chapel. Miss Simmons's period as Headmistress made an enduring impact on the life of The School, so much so that it brought The School to a gradual realisation of its full potential. Miss Simmons was Headmistress of The Glennie School for sixteen years and on staff for a total of twenty-six years. She retired in 1981. This window was

paid for by proceeds from a Jubilee fund, established during Miss Simmons's last year at Glennie.

She will go down in the annals of Glennie history . . . for her lively sense of the ridiculous, her approachability, her firm discipline, her ready sympathy, her high moral standards, her sincere faith in God, her encouragement, her advice, her ability to judge character and evaluate talent, and her genuine interest in people as people.



1983: 75th Anniversary Window

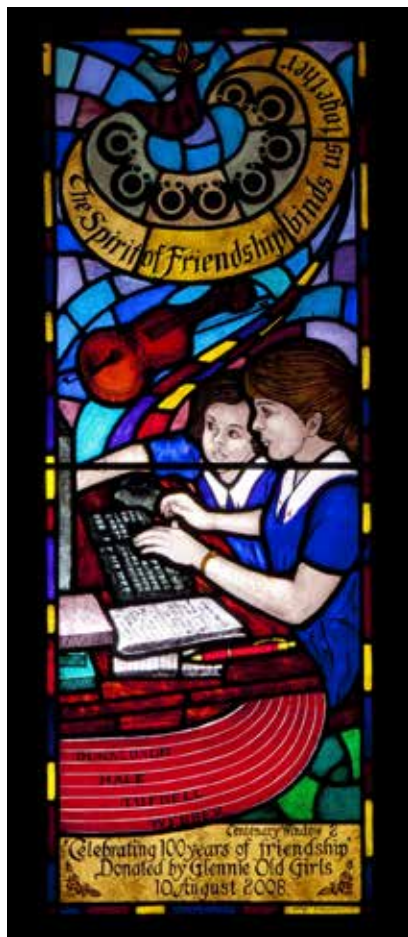
Commissioned by the Glennie Old Girls' Association (GOGA), for The School's 75th anniversary, the Blessed Sacrament window beautifully displays the chalice and the Holy Spirit and was paid for by a collection taken at the Founder's Day service in 1984. Both the Blessed Sacrament window and the Ephesians window

were made by Rev'd John Hamer-Howarth along with his wife Kitty, who was The School's Art Mistress for a number of years. The Glennie students were able to learn the art of lead-lighting from Rev'd and Mrs Hamer-Howarth. Both of these windows were originally housed on the northern wall of the Chapel. The Blessed Sacrament window now sits on the left hand side of the altar, while the Ephesians window has been relocated from the northern wall to the southern wall and to the right hand side of the altar in the sanctuary.



Centenary Windows 2008

Prior to The Glennie School Centenary in 2008, the Glennie Old Girls' Association commissioned two stained glass windows to grace the casements of the Chapel. The windows depict student activities at The School through a veritable rainbow of colours. The GOGA Centenary windows depict the spirit of The Glennie School in the continuity of the past and the present. The "1908" window bears the Bible verse from John 15:12 'Love one another as I have loved you' while the "2008" stained glass window has the phrase 'The spirit of friendship binds us together'.



Liturgical Terms

The **chancel** is the sanctuary of the chapel that is raised by three steps above the level of the nave.

The **credence bracket** is a shelf attached to the sanctuary wall for the alms dish and offering plates before the offering is received and placed on the altar.

The **lectern** is a wooden or metal 'book stand' from which the Bible, the Gospel and the Epistle lessons are read during the service.

The **missal** is the altar book containing the order of services.

The **nave** is the area of the chapel where the congregation sits for services.

The **reredos** is the wooden framework at the back of, and above the altar. In The Glennie Chapel, it is decorated with a painting of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane and other sacred monograms.

The **rose window** is a round window at the end of a church. In The Glennie Chapel, it is the circular window dedicated to Miss Gwen Dowson.

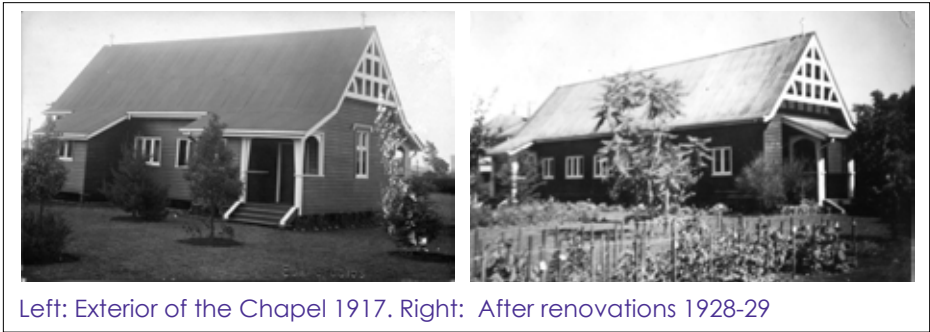
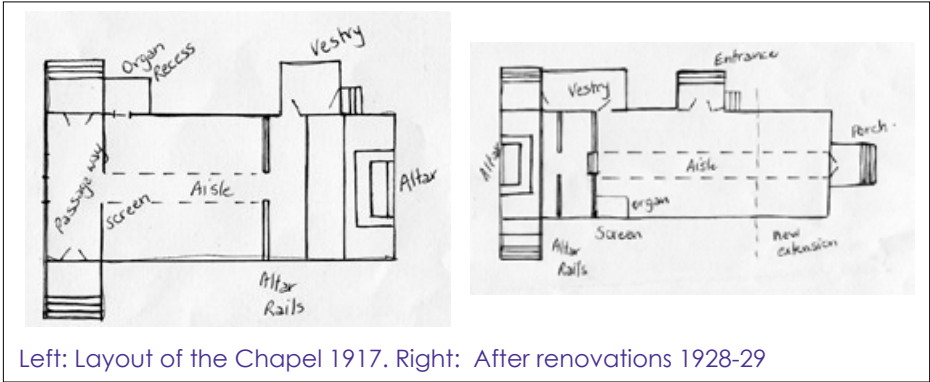
The **sanctuary** is the front part of the chapel where the altar is located and from which the service is conducted.

The **sanctuary lamp** is a lamp hung in the sanctuary that is kept permanently burning to remind the worshippers of the presence of God, or Christ as the Light of the World.

The **screen** is the opening at the entrance to the sanctuary representing the gates of Heaven.

The **vestry** is a room in a church in which the clergy's vestments or robes are kept, and in which the clergy don these liturgical clothes for worship services. It will usually contain a sink as this is also where the communion equipment, linen and supplies are stored.

Comparison photos prior to and after renovations



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(Plans) UQFL116, Chapel, The Glennie School, Toowoomba, W Hodgen & Hodgen Collection, Series 116, Job number P104

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