

Part 2

11. THE SECOND CHURCH 1894

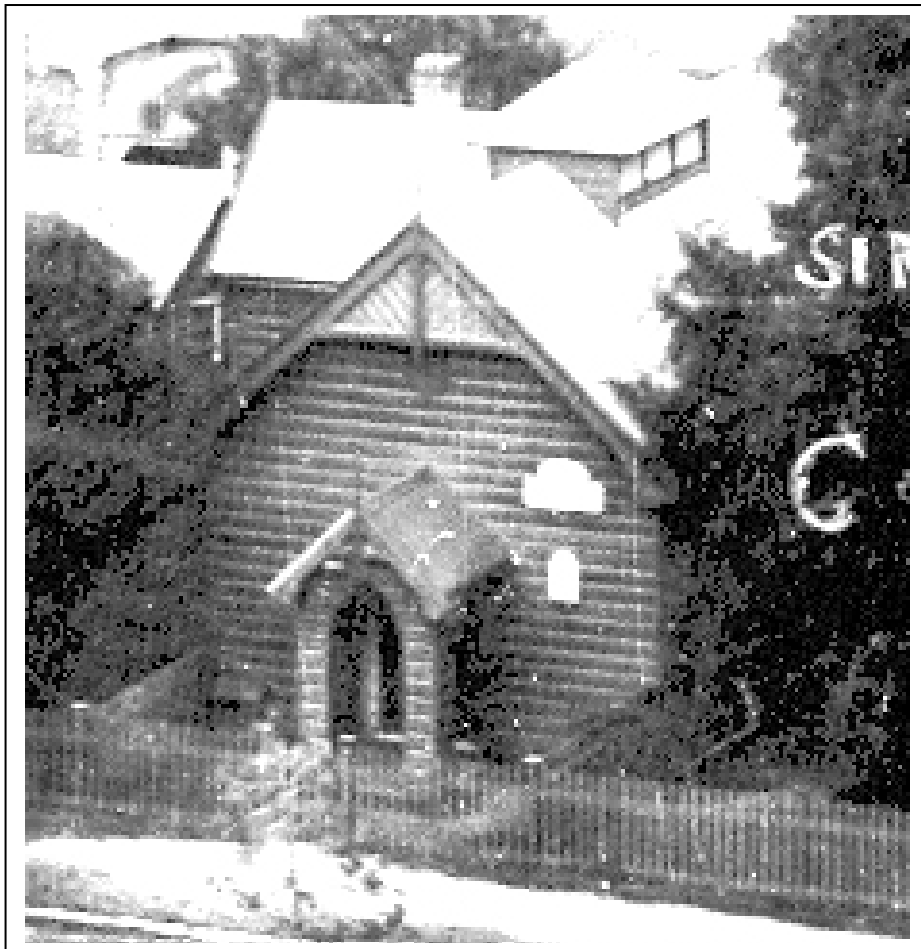
There is no record of any activity of the body until the 1890's, when there was a move to build a bigger church. No records of the planning of this building have been found, apart from the reference to it in the local "Times" paper.

While Charles Gould lived in Bishopgate St., he and Mr. King operated a small timber mill from the corner block of land. When, in 1870, a fire destroyed part of the mill, and the railway came to Singleton, the timber mill was moved to the present site of Gould Bros in Kelso St., right next to the railway line.

Charles owned the Bishopgate St., land, and in 1894 he transferred part of it to the Trusteeship of the Christian Israelites, to use to build a church. (see diagram on Page 7.)

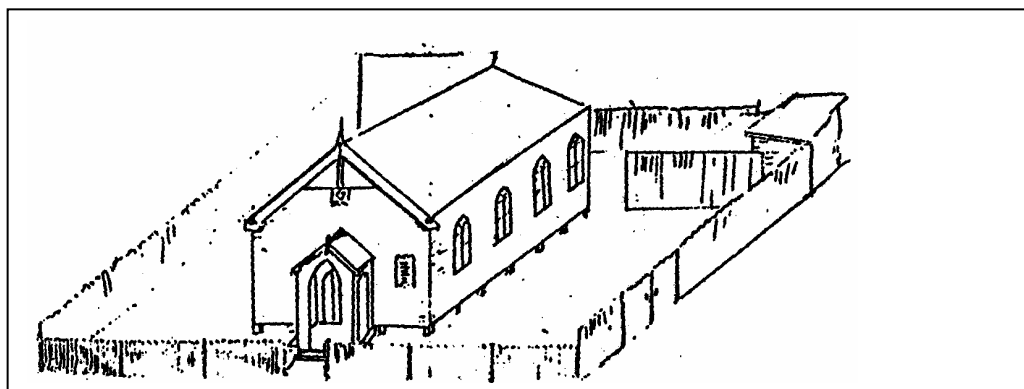
Below is a photograph of the church which was built, and the photograph is taken from the Anglican Church tower in 1926. The church was erected in Goulburn St., just along from the corner of Bishopgate St.,

For some years the corner block became the work place for Aaron Clarke who married Charles Gould's daughter, Eliza.



This is the 1894 Church.

This sketch of the proposed new church was found in the Robinson collection in 1893-4.



The sketch enables us to imagine what it was like inside. As I write there are not many people who remember meeting in the church, and I can just remember small incidents, as I was 7 years old when the new church of 1934, church number 3 was opened.

The 1894 church was a timber building. The sketch illustrates it had a small vented area on the roof. This is shown in the actual photograph of the church. The main area of the church was of thirty feet in length and twenty-five feet in width. A small porchway provided an entrance to the front of the building. Inside the doorway a screen closed the outside from the sanctuary and curtains were set on the sides of the screen towards the doorway.

Inside the sanctuary a pulpit stood at the front of the church and a reed runner was set between two rows of pews along the aisle to the front of the church. A red velvet cushion sat on the reading lectern on the pulpit, and beside it there was a small bell. Eight Gothic styled windows ornamented the side church walls.

Behind the sanctuary there were two small rooms which were entered from the left hand side, a small library and meeting room. A kitchen and cloakroom were on the right hand side. In the kitchen was set a fuel stove and cupboards for storing crockery and cooking utensils used for the yearly Whitsuntide feasts. A set of wooden steps led into the grounds at the back of the church, and on one side a tank provided water for the church needs. Outside toilets and a small work shed for all purposes completed the buildings.

The building was closed from the street by a picket fence and this continued for two sides of the area. The third on the east faced the spare block and a wooden fence bound the fourth side on the lane-way. Peppercorn trees lined the lane fence, and there were seats under the trees for people to sit on and chat.

There are still a few members in today's church group who actually attended this church. I remember, as a three or four year old being carried by Mildred Spinks at a Whitsuntide function, and being allowed to ring the bell on the pulpit. I also remember the meetings during the winter months when we huddled around the big fuel fire in the kitchen.

A few notes from the Half Yearly Meetings may be of interest to readers:

- 1926 *Elias Paskins financed the redesigning of the leadlight in the windows.*
- 1927 *The gas standards were removed from the side of the pulpit*
- 1927 *At a meeting it was moved a sink be installed in the kitchen to save using basins for dishwashing.*
- 1928 *The porch floor was refloored with ironbark.*
An electric fan was donated by Aaron Clark
Plaster was placed over the walls of the back rooms in that year
Norman Gray was asked to lower the pitch of the organ a half a tone, and then two years later was asked to raise it to where it was before.
- 1929 *A cleat was nailed on the wall end base of each pew to prevent its rubbing against the wall.*

12. THE THIRD CHURCH IS BUILT



The 1894 building served well as a church - until it came time for repairs.

In 1931 it was moved that a fund be opened for the extension of the present church.

In 1932 March it was moved that enquiries be made as to the design and cost of a brick church recently built at Lochinvar with a view to building a new church at Singleton.

At a half yearly meeting 17th January, 1933 Walter Gould summarised the position of the wooden building:

“the ravages of white ant and decay in the old wooden building are such that even a general repair which would be necessarily limited in the degree of pulling down and replacing, would still leave some weak and doubtful portions of the hall untouched. Taking into consideration that this building is about 40 years old, and that its seating and accommodation are quite insufficient at times”..

A list of proposed repairs and alterations to the church was put forward. Prices for the work were ascertained and after discussion it was moved by C.Fellowes and seconded by N.Gray that rather than repair the old church, an application be made to the Treasury for funds amounting to fifteen hundred pounds to build a new brick sanctuary.

Fourteen months later, in April 1934, the reply came offering five hundred pounds towards the project. Naturally, disappointment was expressed but nevertheless it was moved by Job Bradbury and Amos Gould that the building go ahead.

Minutes of a meeting in August 1933 record a discussion of the location of the new church. It was first thought to purchase land in Hunter Street for the convenience of people living in South Singleton as there were few cars and most people walked to church. But when Eliza and Aaron Clark donated land adjoining the old church on the corner, a resolution was proposed to erect the building on that land

The land which was donated had been used as a workshop space by Aaron Clark for some time since the transfer of the mill to South Singleton.

13. THE THIRD CHURCH Financing, Furnishing, Donations

The Work began with Amos Gould and his son, Hector drawing up basic plans, and a committee of Walter Gould Senior, Clarence Fellowes and Norman Gray working with the architects. The original plan had to be reduced in size because money had not been allocated from the Treasury and the size selected was thirty five feet long and twenty four feet six inches wide. The overall area was to cover a space of four hundred square feet more than the original sanctuary. A model of the proposed church was exhibited by Clarence Fellowes and this enabled discussion.

It was realised that the new structure could be combined with the old one, and hence the original church became the hall which was entered from the rear of the new church.

First came the removal of the workshop and garage on the donated land. John Knight donated twelve pounds ten shillings to pay for the removal of old buildings and rubbish on the site. The original church, facing Goulburn St., was moved to the western side of the new church to become the hall. This was moved by draught horses and rollers. For convenience it had been raised six inches for removal purposes and this was left as its height to make a platform at the western end of the new church, a step of six inches down into the aisle of the new church. The removal of the original church brought it to twenty four feet from the street and left a space behind the building of forty one feet.

Repairs and alterations to the old church, now the hall, were carried out to the value of five pounds a week, a week of 44 hours, and employment tax paid to each of E.Gould and J.Cann. The kitchen was rebuilt, the fireplace was re-erected, and other repairs effected to the back rooms of the old building



This is a picture of the finished third church.

Fortunately contributions greatly exceeded expectations and they were sufficient to carry out the desired work. Many volunteer hours enabled the production of **the beautiful maple-finished seats and furnishings**. In all, one hundred and forty hours of time, either at night or of a Saturday afternoon was accumulated in Gould Bros Joinery shop. Walter Gould Senior and Jnr, Hector, Amos, Arthur, Clarence, all Goulds, Clarence Fellowes and William Mason. Allen Gould remembers that as a young lad he was allowed to watch the men working.

Clarence Fellowes and Walter Gould Jnr carved **the balustrades and pulpit**. These were set on a raised platform right across the front of the church. A door with a “**handsome figured grain**” of one panel Gothic design imported from Holland gave entrance to the old building.

Donations included **the pulpit** by the Spinks family, **the tiles** for the roof of the building by the Kempsey members, **furnishings** by the Knight family, and further donations were combined to make the **ornamental brick fence**. **Gravel** for the whole project by R. Langsford. Elias Paskins donated the leadlight windows for the Eastern side, and the blue and gold **carpet** for the centre isle. Emily Sheppard gave towards a new stove.



Picture showing the furnishing of the interior of the church.

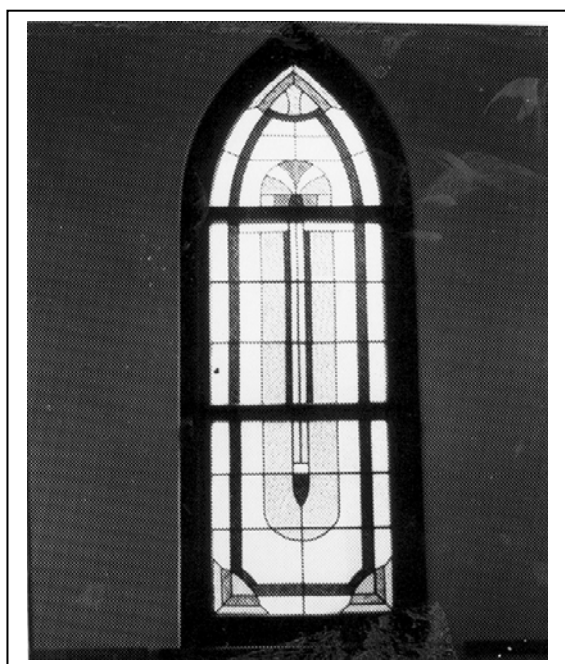
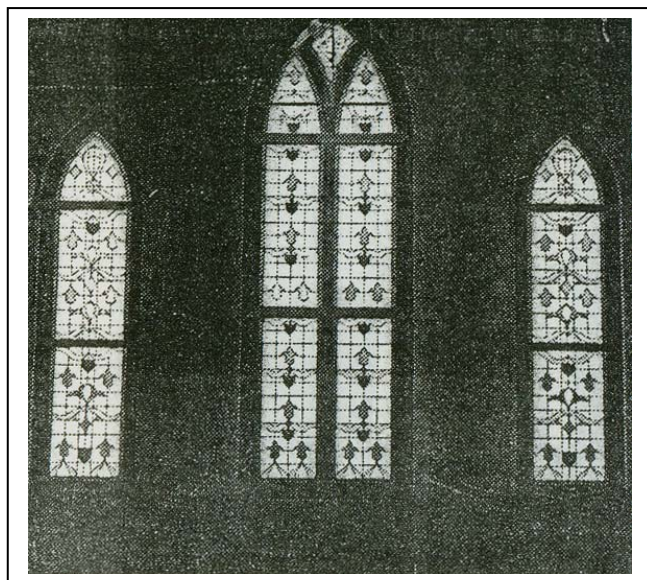
The organ illustrated in the picture of the church was a bellows type, and it was twenty years before someone had the idea to fit an electric motor to it. This cost fifty pounds. Outside buildings were two toilets and a ten foot long shed for storage.

THE WINDOWS

One of the main features of the building is the window decoration. They are illustrated at the right.

Amos Gould designed the three large leadlight windows placed in the eastern wall of the building.

The pattern of the tracery of the two side windows differed from the pattern of the centre window.



The leadlight windows from the 1894 church were incorporated in the new church. (See below)

The window on the left is one of the eight Gothic windows of different pattern.

They adorn the southern and northern walls.



To the left we see the lights; large lamps of sixteen inches in depth and twelve inches in width.

The windows are those from the 1894 church.

14. EXTENSIONS AND FURTHER ADDITIONS

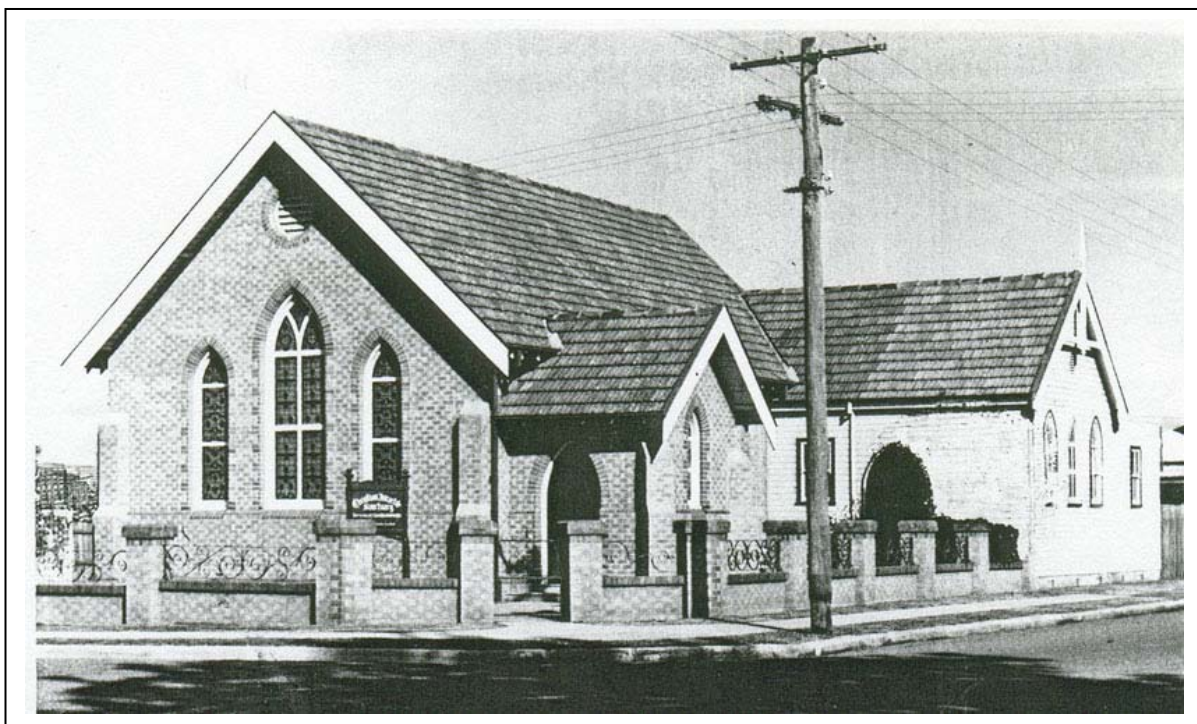
At a Half yearly meeting 23rd August 1941, John Knight, the then State Trustee proposed, and this was seconded by Hector Gould that we write to the church officers stating the case for extensions and asking for their assistance-

The motion read:-

“On account of the congestion at Whitsuntide an extension to the church hall is desirable, andWe would appreciate assistance in having the work carried out”

Apparently the reply was favourable and on 28th February, 1942 the meeting formed a committee to assess costs and plans. These materialised in 1944 when the present Sunday School Hall was extended to the footpath level and a landing was constructed around the old kitchen. Toilets were built at each end of the landing, and electric lighting installed. Both the old and the new buildings were painted. As well alterations were made to the kitchen, and the old cloak room at the back of the church.

In 1945 inside the church the platform on the organ side was extended two feet into the church.



Above shows the hall at the street level and a doorway for its entrance inside the fenced area. A skillion roof had been added to the back area

In 1945 Elias Paskins bequeathed his hall clock to the church, and it is still in use to-day 2005.

At a Half Yearly Meeting in 1946 it was agreed to purchase a ceiling fan, a second approved in 1959. In 1948 the purchase of a Hammond organ was discussed, but it was not until 1959 that a Wurlitzer Organ was purchased. Meanwhile a motor was fitted to the present organ to help with pedalling.

Three eager teenagers were cleaning the church and hall, (Joan Gould, Audrey and Beryl Gray) for a wage of six shillings a week. Later this wage was raised to one pound, and a groundsperson was awarded 2/- an hour for 4 hours work weekly.