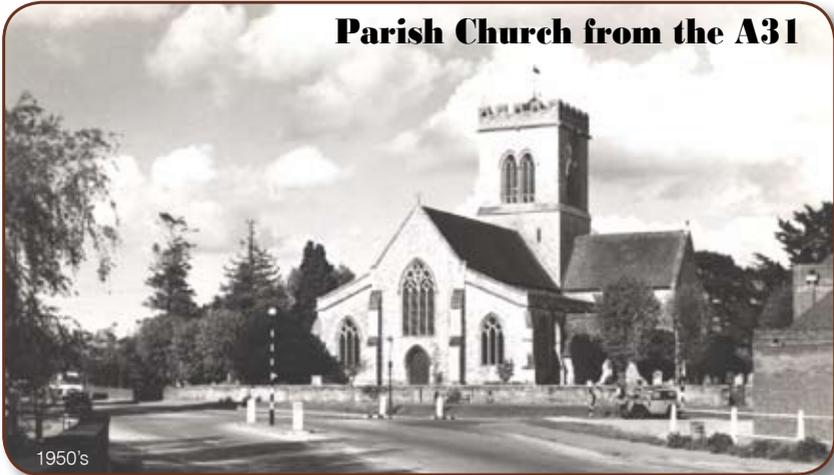


NOW and THEN

Parish Church from the A31



This issue's old photograph shows another view of Ringwood Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul after the construction of the first bypass in the 1930s, described in the previous two issues of Now and Then. The west end of the Parish Church can be clearly seen facing the A31 bypass with the new link road from the Market Place on the right.

A church has stood on this site since Saxon times and was mentioned in the Domesday book. It was rebuilt in the early middle ages and again in Victorian times (1853-1855). Many of the original features of the Early English church have been retained, including the medieval Purbeck marble shafts and the double piscine in the chancel and the 15th century brass effigy of Dean John Prophete, now sited at the back of the church near the porch door. There are also many old monumental tablets from the previous church displayed around the walls.

The central tower rises to a height of about 100 feet and contains eight bells with a clock face on its southern side. On holy days and special secular occasions it is always a heart-warming sight to see

the church flag of the diocese of Winchester waving from the tower flagpole.

On the extreme right of the old photograph, probably taken in the 1950s, is the new Electricity Showroom built on part of the garden of the demolished old vicarage. In recent years this building, now called Brightwater House, has been considerably enlarged and is used as offices.

An exact photographic location today would be astride the central armco barrier where the Millstream travels beneath the A31!

