

**The Church of
St. John the Baptist**

1837 – 1987

Hardware
Garden Products
Timber
Kitchen Ware
Pet Foods



Rowlands Castle HARDWARE

Tel: Rowlands Castle 412332

R.J.

WINNICOTT
LIMITED

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Telephone Rowlands Castle 412741

FOR BUILDING WORK
LARGE AND SMALL
DOMESTIC OR BUSINESS

**A short history
of the church of
St. John the Baptist
Rowlands Castle
(formerly Redhill)
to celebrate its
150th anniversary.**

INTRODUCTION.

In the year 1837 Victoria became Queen, John Brown founded his shipyard, and the building of St John the Baptist began.

It was a period of social and environmental change as well as spiritual re-awakening for despite the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the first Reform Bill, which effectively put a stop to church building through taxation, local support ensured that such building continued.

One hundred and fifty years later this voluntary support continues unabated and we continue to preserve our parish churches in all their varied and interesting styles.

If an enquiry was made of the buildings how they are able to retain their beauty it seems probable they would reply;

“We are loved and cared for by ordinary men and women”.

R.G.

APPENDICES
PAGE 21 = ○

"A population estimated at about 400 persons, belonging chiefly to the three Parishes of Havant, Chalton, and Warblington, being located in the two Hamlets of Rowland's Castle and Durrants, and their vicinity, at a very inconvenient distance from their respective Parish Churches; it has been suggested that a Church, built in a central situation with respect to those hamlets, would be of great advantage, in many points of view, to the people who inhabit them".

Such is the wording on a circular asking for subscriptions towards the building of this church. The printed document goes on to state that a site has been granted by Sir George Staunton and that contributions have already been promised, and there follows a list of some twenty-six names with donations worth -£783.

The idea for a new church, according to the Reverend Norris writing in 1846, came from the Reverend Mountain but it must have been the result of a long thought of plan for suggestion, subscription list and approval all date from early 1837.

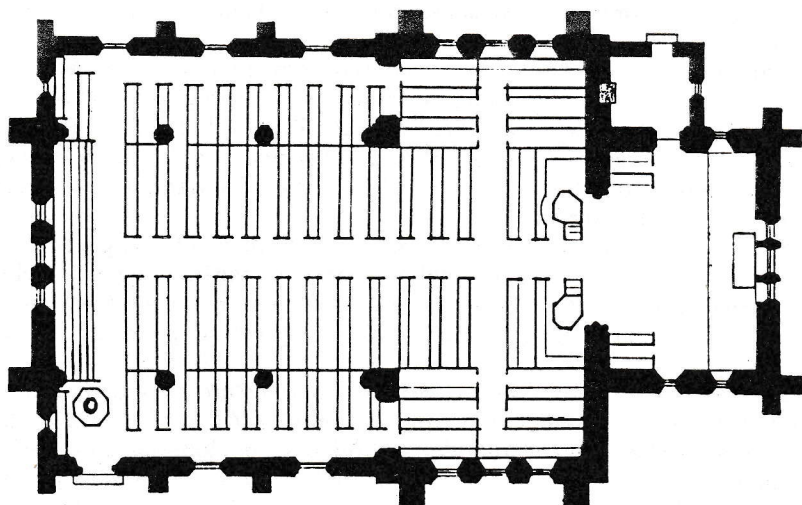
This original suggestion came from the concern of the Rev. G.R. Mountain, Rector of Havant, that the small proportion of his congregation that lived at Durrants were more than two miles from their Parish Church (St Faith's in Havant). The Rev. W. Norris of Warblington promptly agreed since he had at least one hundred people from his own congregation living at Rowlands Castle at three miles from their Parish Church.

It must be remembered that England was in the midst of a religious revival, brought on by the relatively peaceful times and that the building of new churches was then commonplace. In fact some years previously it was positively encouraged with the Government providing £9,000,000 (by special Act) towards ecclesiastical projects.

The two Reverend gentlemen were able to put forward their views and take action on them because of an Act dating from 1818 entitled 'An Act for building, and promoting the building, of additional churches in populous parishes'. This Act was amended in 1827/8 and again in 1837 and basically allowed a new church to be built where a need could be shown, the premise being that a Parish would be added later. The Act was further amended in 1844 by Peel. His 'New Parishes Act' of that year speeded the procedure by allowing a parish to be created, an incumbent appointed, and a church added later, but his measure was chiefly aimed at the new populous areas created by the Industrial Revolution.

The 'Form of Inquiry on application being made to His¹ Majesty's Commissioners for Building and promoting the Building of Additional Churches in populous Parishes' was duly completed and signed by the Reverends Norris and Mountain, (strangely enough on August 29th 1837), and contains some interesting information. The first being the statement that the Parish of Chalton would be affected and it even mentions the Rev. Manley by name (Rector of Chalton and Idsworth 1835-48). This statement is in the preamble before the set questions are answered but it has already been seen in the request for subscriptions which opened this history. After two general questions about population likely to be affected, number three asks; 'Is there in such Parish a population of 300 persons resident upwards of two miles from any existing church or chapel and within one mile of the site on which the new church or chapel is proposed to be erected?' The answer was 'yes', of course, but the question itself is more interesting than the answer for it

shows, legally, the criteria for the building of a new church. Further questions ask about costs until number eleven; 'Is such church or chapel intended for the accommodation of persons dwelling in more than one Parish?'² and the answer was; 'It is, the three parishes already mentioned!', so Chalton is included again! Question fourteen asks 'What is the intended accommodation in such proposed church or chapel, allowing twenty inches of breadth for each sitting in a pew and eighteen inches breadth for each free sitting?'³. This question leads to what would appear to be some exaggerated statements. The answer on the form is 272, of which 232 were free sittings³. It is difficult to see how 272 people could have been accommodated in the smaller original church, difficult that is, until we see this seating plan which shows how it was done.



The plan is after the 1853 extension (which as far as the seating goes means extended pews into the aisles), nevertheless it is easy to reach 272 and even higher whatever the proportion of 20" to 18" we use⁴.

The complete list of subscribers to the new church contains seventy-nine names including no less than nineteen Reverend gentlemen from such places as Brighton, Southampton and Chichester as well as most of the surrounding parishes. Local dignitaries such as Sir George Staunton (Leigh Park House), Charles Dixon Esq. (Stansted), the Rev'd Sir Samuel Clarke-Jervoise (Lord of the Manor of Idsworth-cum-Chalton and incumbent of the same), Lady Knighton, the Bishop of Winchester, John Barton of Eastleigh, two Captains, a Major and two Admirals. The two patrons are also well represented with five Mountains and seven Norris's appearing as do R. Fenwick and C. Longcroft (names which crop up often in local history). The form ends with an anonymous gift of £5 from a well-wisher. The sum it was estimated they would require (in fact it was also the answer to question five on the Form of Inquiry) was £600 plus expenses and purchase of site. The last item was

an unforeseen complication. Legal difficulties⁶ prevented Sir G. Staunton from providing a site, despite the wording on the request for subscriptions, and a further list containing eighteen names raised £45, part of the money necessary to buy land from Charles Pearson.⁵

The foundation stone was laid by Mrs Dixon, the wife of Charles Dixon of Stansted House, on August 31st 1837 (one source gives the date as August 30th but this was probably the first stone).

The final balance sheet reads;

Received.				Payments.			
	£	s	d		£	s	d
Subscriptions.	1100	18	0	Expences of laying the 1st stone, printing, etc.	2	18	6
Proceeds of bazaar.	157	15	0	Moore & Knight, Builders.	605	0	0
Grant of Church Building Society.	180	0	0	Mr Owen, Architect.	31	7	0
Grant of Incorporated Church Building Society.	200	0	0	Purchase of site and legal expences of same.	95	0	0
Collected at Consecration.	41	14	8	Solicitor to the Church Commissioners.	10	11	4
Drawback of duties on Timber.	38	19	0	Mr Bur, the Bishop's Sec for endowment deeds.	11	7	0
Drawback of duties on Glass.	8	0	5	Mr Woolridge, Registration	31	19	10
Legacy from the Rev G Blyth.	180	0	0	Consecration fees.	1	3	4
				Insurance while building.	1	2	6
				Insurance till Christmas '39.	14	14	9
				Small repairs to windows etc.			
				Purchased for endowment in the 3% consols.	700	0	0
				Power to receive dividends.	1	4	0
				Stamp for receipt.	2	6	
				Transmitted to Governors of Queen Anne's bounty.	400	0	0
				Left in hand.	16	4	
	£	1907	7 1		£	1907	7 1

The estimate of £600 to build the church was therefore achieved. The £1,100 or so over was invested, as was common practice, in the two funds as stated.⁶

It can appear that the Rev'd Mountain and Norris overestimated the population that the new church would attract because the census of 1861 shows the population of the area in question (by then a parish and assessed as such), to be 354, well below the figure of 400 as put on the Form of Inquiry. It seems likely that they included the people living around the north side of the green at Rowlands Castle who were in the parish of Idsworth-cum-Chalton. These people were the statutory three miles from a church (St Michael's at Chalton)⁷ so they could have been legally included, however no trace of permission by the incumbent of that parish exists.

There was one more form to complete, and that was the 'Petition of Consecration', which is important because it is there that the name of 'St John the Baptist' appears for the first time. The petition, signed by both men, is dated July 12th 1838. All of the forms incidentally appear to be in the hand of the Rev. Norris.⁸

The church was consecrated on July 12th 1838 by Charles Richard Sumner, Bishop of Winchester (the recipient of the petition of course) who also consecrated the first small churchyard on the same day.

This was the series of events and procedures leading up to the building of the Church of St John the Baptist at a place called Red Hill in the Parish of Havant in the Diocese of Winchester during the years 1837-38. It was, as we have seen, a smaller church than we know now in a smaller churchyard and it was in the control of the Rev'd Norris and Mountain who alternatively supplied an incumbent.⁹

On the 15th June 1840 Red-hill was made a Consolidated Chapelry¹⁰ District in the Parish of Havant and in the Diocese of Winchester. The first incumbent was the Rev. Thomas Yard. The naming of the District as Red-hill was after the area where the church was built (a strong case could have been made for Durrants but whether it ever was or not we don't know). Red Hill itself was named after the clay deposits found there.

Accompanying the Order in Council (made under the same Act as the application to build the church), was a description of the new district, put forward to Her Majesty's Commissioners for approval, and signed by the Lord Bishop of Winchester.

The boundaries of the new district were; 'The outline, commencing at the northern extremity of the parish of Havant, follows the boundary of the parish, eastward, inclining to the south, to its juncture with the parish of Warblington, it then runs along the boundary of the latter parish in a north easterly direction, to its extreme north point; and from thence, in a south easterly direction, till it comes to a road passing through the Lord's allotment of Emsworth common, from Two-stone bottom to Pollington's-corner; and following the said road towards the south west, to the latter point, at which the road falls into another road, called Leigh-lane; at the second junction of the two parishes it runs along Leigh-lane, in the parish of Havant, to its termination in the road leading from the town of Havant to Horndean; the outline of the proposed district then follows the road from Havant to Horndean, northward, till it reaches the entrance to a lane on the left of that road, called Thicket-lane; and descending that lane, to its lower extremity, passes from thence along the paling of Leigh-park, by which the park is separated from Havant-thicket, to a place called Bonfields, where it strikes again upon the boundary of the parish of Havant; which boundary becomes also the outline of the proposed district for the remainder of its length, as far as the northern extremity of the parish'.¹¹

Whilst some roads, boundaries and place names may have changed over the past 150 years, and some indeed been lost and forgotten, enough of them remain to be able to trace this boundary even today.

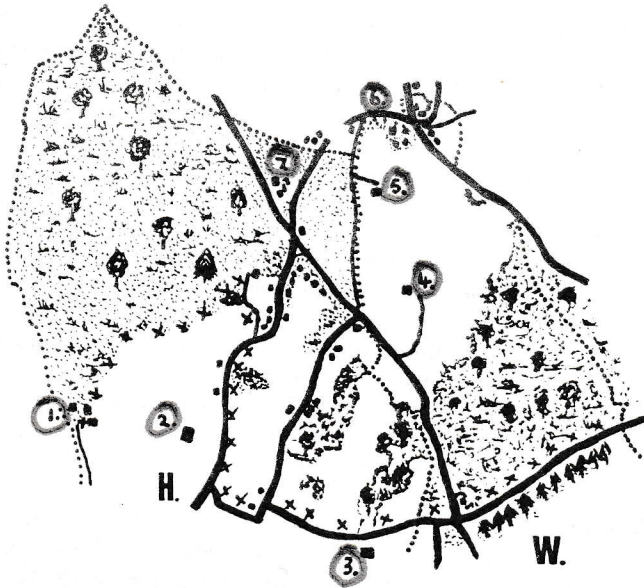
The extreme north of the parish of Havant was in the Thicket, its boundary to the south-east continued along the line of Castle Road and into the woods now occupied by College Close until it met the path (the bridleway to Whichers Gate Cottage) which was also the Warblington boundary. That boundary continued along the flint wall on the south side of the green, made a loop around the present day Castle Inn, and then joined the County boundary till Two Stone Bottom (still so named). The Warblington/Havant boundary crossed Bartons Road near to Eastleigh crossroads and Bartons Road still joins the Havant to Horndean one. Thicket Lane could be the track at Durrants bend (now sometimes called Hammonds Lane) where a line can be followed around Leigh Park gardens to a house called Bondfields just off Swanmore Road. The bridleway here is for a short distance the same as the old boundary of Havant before the boundary itself branches off to its northern extremity again.

It was 1,830 acres in area.

There follows part of a map, made during the 1830's. The only addition I have made is to show the boundary line.

RED-HILL

As the area was just a few years before the church was built. The lines of dots are the boundaries of the parishes of Havant (H) and Warblington (W) and the crosses (X) where they are joined to make the new district. 1. is Bonfields. 2. Leigh Park Mansion. 3. East Leigh House. 4. Maize Copse Farm. 5. Rowlands Hill Farm. 6. The Green. 7. Red Hill (almost certainly the brickfields).



3.

In 1853 a popular history of the village tells us the church was enlarged by the addition of the aisles and sanctuary. A brass plate inside the church tells of 'beautifying' as well so possibly some interior decoration also took place. A stone outside the sanctuary commemorates the event thus; 'Enlargement 1853. Rev. J. Hawker Incumbent. W.R. & E. Habershon Architects. Moore Knight Thompson Builders. Alfred M. Pite Super' of Works. There is little information on this enlargement although a textbook on buildings in Hampshire states that only the aisles were added, the chancel (which would include the sanctuary) merely being rebuilt. The plan of the church reproduced on an earlier page would seem to agree with this. If you trace the thicker walls and the internal arcades you are left with a cruciform shape (more pronounced transepts), which according to the same source was the original design of the church.¹²

The 1853 enlargement, whatever really happened, cost £1,500, £40 of which came from the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels, on the promise that 236 seats were reserved for the poor for ever.

An Order in Council, dated June 28th 1866, made the parish a Rectory. This was the official date although the letter from the Ecclesiastical Commission to the Rev. Austen is dated June 13th. The wording on this letter explains that the church of the benefice of Red Hill is to be a rectory.¹³

A letter which is undated and unsigned but is filed with others of 1885, brings up again the inconsistency mentioned earlier; namely why was Chalton mentioned in some of the original documents but no part of that parish taken in 1840? The letter is accompanied by a sketch map showing the writers idea of the intended outline of the parish of Red Hill and pointing out that it is some miles off course. The letter also suggests that yet another parish should be formed from the houses in Rowlands Castle and areas up to Idsworth. It appears to have been dismissed out of hand.¹⁴ The churchyard was enlarged in 1885 using part of the glebe land donated from the waste of Havant in 1847.

In 1905 the porch was added, it was erected by Mrs Mott in memory of her husband Andrew Luther who was a churchwarden for many years. It was built to a design by Vernon Inkpen.

The first organ¹⁵ was installed in 1909, it was placed in memory of the Rev. P.A.R. Marriott and also in 1909 the vestry was enlarged by A. Pitt.

There was a surveyors report made in 1913. It was done by G.C. Vernon Inkpen in conjunction with the Havant building firm of Roger Bros. He mentions the need for repairs and refers to a heating pipe as being cause for concern.

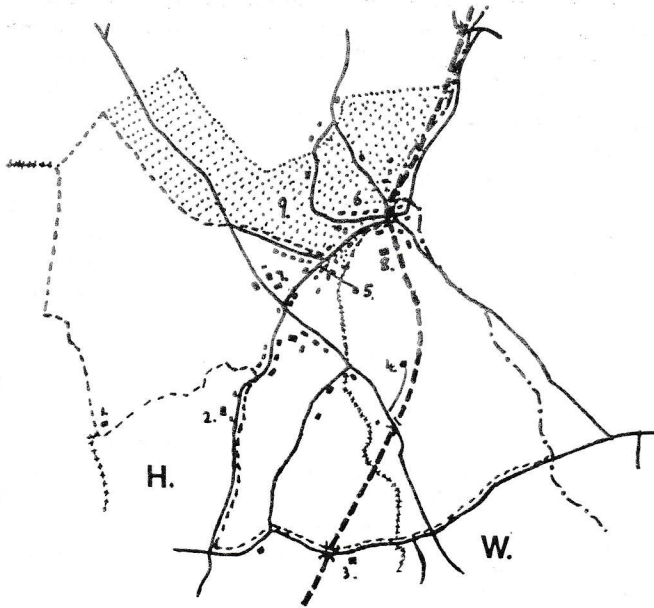
A church meeting on Wednesday August 2nd 1916, held in the school, discussed the building of a memorial to commemorate the names of the fallen from the village. The same meeting heard of a plan to extend the churchyard, half of which was consecrated on February 27th 1918 but the rest was not consecrated until 1955. The war memorial was built, but not until 1919 when the First World War was over. The service of dedication taking place on Sunday November 2nd. It was a village affair with the Rev. Hern of the congregational church (the chapel on the Green) reading the lesson, Admiral O'Callaghan reading the names of the fallen and the Bishop of Southampton dedicating. In attendance, amongst many, were the Rowlands Castle Boy Scouts led by Miss Dyson.

In 1921, by another Order in Council, the boundaries of the Parish of Redhill were extended. The form was an 'Application to the Commissioners for an Alteration of the Boundaries of a new Parish or Peel District' and is dated July 7th. It was approved on November 21st. The extension encloses an area chiefly consisting of the Green, Links Lane, Bowes Hill and that part of Finchdean Road in Hampshire (Church boundaries, unlike civil ones, sometimes crossed a county boundary).¹⁶

The main reasons for the Application are given as; The population of the area affected are far nearer to Redhill church, which they habitually attend for Baptisms, Weddings etc. The roll contains over 60 names from that area. The Rector visits them. More logical boundary. Some facts are given to support the Application.

	accom	pop	new area
Redhill	250	785	+ 252
Chalton cum	120	157	
Idsworth	75	390	

REDHILL PARISH



The Parish in 1921 with the added area (No.9). The railway line is shown as are the majority of the roads.

The numbers are the same as on the first map except; No.2 is Leigh Park House, No.7 the site of the Church, school and old rectory at Redhill proper and No.8 the brickworks.

The figure of 390 for Idsworth would have included Finchdean and part of Dean Lane End as well as the areas of Rowlands Castle mentioned above.¹⁷

The Application is approved by William Burrell Norris,¹⁸ rector of Warblington, Harold Nickinson Rodgers, rector of Havant and Adela Clara Westall. These people were the patrons¹⁹ of the incumbents involved who actually signed the form, namely E.G. Selwyn for Redhill and Hawksley Westall for Chalton. Here we have for the first time a signature from Chalton as an area affected.

The Church hall was built in 1926 and, apart from minor repairs, not improved until 1951 when the toilets were moved inside, main drainage and electric light connected and it was completely redecorated. A new kitchen was added in early 1961. All of this work was by C.H. Pitt.

4.

There has been no success in the search for the original foundation stone laid by Mrs Dixon but there is a foundation stone at the west end of the church. It reads; This stone was laid May 21st 1929 by Neville, 1st Bishop of Portsmouth, Glory be to thee O God. The stone marks the major extension of 1929, work that was finished by

October 13th of the same year when the Re-Hallowing ceremony took place. The reasons behind the extension start much earlier than 1929 however.

The report of 1913 seems to have been forgotten but by 1924 cracks in the west wall were widely noticed, especially from inside the church. The official surveyor of the Diocese of Winchester, a Mr B.D. Cancellor, was called in and his report, dated 10th March 1924, states; there is movement in parts of the building, most serious in the west wall, the two end arches and the porch. The gable at the west end was out of the perpendicular. He put the trouble down to the clay foundations and suggested underpinning the west end along its whole length, enlarging the foundations and filling with concrete and building two external buttresses's for extra support. It would have been a costly exercise and he advised that it could be postponed until really necessary. He put forward an idea to examine the stone dressing and to rake out all loose and open joints and replace with cement. This would show any sign of movement.

Mr A.E. Stallard put forward a plan later on in that year for an extension at the west end with a new outside vestry (choir) at an estimated price of £1,236. His plan did not include any work on the heating system.

By 1925 there was a general dissatisfaction with the church building, the cross pews in the transepts were unpopular and often empty, the heating system left the sanctuary cold (please remember this is the shorter original building still) and there was little room for baptisms and no choir vestry.²⁰ A building committee was formed by December 17th 1925 and the plan of Mr Stallard accepted by them.²¹

Matters from here on seem to have got weighed down and little real progress is noticed. The Parochial Church meeting of January 20th 1926 gave the go ahead for the extension. A sum of £700 was already available from some long term investments and it was thought that an appeal could raise the rest of the money needed. They applied to Winchester and the plans were approved in September and permission for the Faculty granted in December, provided that £700 was in hand or promised.

In the meantime permission had also been granted to remove the cross pews in the north and south of the transepts (4th Nov 1926). These pews were now behind the choir stalls, another reason for their removal.

Permission to go ahead with the extension was granted on 11th January 1927, and then nothing much happened until the January 1928 meeting of the P.C.C., which passed a resolution to obtain a Faculty for the restoration and extension of the west end! This time it was a Mr Gardiner who put forward the resolution but Mr Stallard came up with a statement to the effect that 'since building prices have fallen ... £1,250 should be enough including heating'.

On October 28th 1928 a severe thunderclap burst over the church causing damage to the ceiling, breaking windows and loosening stones. Mr Cancellor was called in on November 7th and his report noted the damage above plus defective stones on the parapet, the gable was in urgent need of repair and the coping stones were not able to take, satisfactorily, the weight of the steeply sloping roof. He mentions that the flue pipe of the Tortoise stove did some damage to the west wall where it was embedded into the masonry (as pointed out in 1913). The west end was shored up and repairs costing £138 were carried out.

22 Mr Cancellor and the P.C.C. however are all unwilling to even suggest that the church was struck by lightning. It is hinted that a nearby tree took the brunt of the 'severe thunderclap'.²²

As in 1837, a letter of appeal was circulated, this time with extensive notes, asking for £900. It was dated December 1928, entitled 'Scheme for Restoration, Extension and Heating' and it suggested work should begin on May 1st 1929. The church was extended westwards by two arches. The new west end had 6ft foundations into what was probably firmer ground following the draining of the churchyard in 1927. choir vestry was built, and smaller brick chambers were erected outside the church for housing the new heating system and the motor for the organ.

23 The 1929 extension also saw some replanning and improvements to the existing parts of the church. The floor of the chancel was raised to form a more evident choir, the pulpit, lectern and organ were all moved as was the font.²³ New brick foundations were put into the aisles. The extension also disturbed some graves, the known names of which are recorded on a stone tablet above the west door and a bank with elm trees separating the church from the road was replaced by a post and chain fence.

The story of the extension gives us one more set of interesting facts which would seem to have parallels in our own times today. Namely the difference in the estimates for the work (it also gives an indication to how many local building firms there were).

Estimates:	£1,575	Havant firm
	£2,138	Fratton firm
	£989 18 6	C.H. Pitt
	£1,400	Finchdean firm
	£1,466 11 1	West Marden firm

C.H.Pitt of course was the village building firm with their premises in the Drift (now built on - Yardlea Close).

5.

On September the 29th 1938, strangely enough a Thursday, a new organ was dedicated. It was a Hammond Electric, costing £500 and replaced the old pipe organ which had become unreliable. After the dedication a Mr Edgar Smith gave a recital.

It may seem strange, in what I hope is an accurate history, to mention what might have been, but 1939 certainly represented some opportunities as far as the fabric of the church was concerned. Plans submitted on the 17th May show that the Rev. H. McKay had ideas for the church. The plans were approved on June 8th but later events of that year prevented them from being performed. However correspondence on the subject between the Rector and the Church²⁴ authorities continue until September 1940, asking the whereabouts of the plans, and when is the work going to start?

25 The plan was for a Lady chapel in the south east corner of the transept immediately in front of the door, which is still there, but which would have been blocked off if the plan had gone ahead. Despite its grand title the whole affair would have been quite simple for the estimate for the materials involved was only £49 12s 6d. The Faculty²⁵ lays down the limits of the design, which would have been on the plans anyway, but the general description is an Altar five feet wide with rail in front. The

Altar having Cross and candlesticks and backed by a curtain. There would have been six or eight chairs facing the Altar and the choir stalls on that side would be moved in six feet to accommodate the structure. The plan was made by the Warham Guild, as was the second idea. This was for a Children's Corner in the other transept, more forward than the Lady chapel as it would have abutted up to the organ. The rules for this were, if anything, stricter than for the Lady chapel and finally only a simple oak bench at which children could kneel and a crucifix were approved. The estimated cost of the Children's Corner was only £8 4s. These improvements were never carried out but it is interesting to note that the same Faculty gives permission to replace the organ, something that had already occurred!

1939 of course was the start of WW II. Church services carried on during these years as in the earlier conflict and similarly Church organisation. Even new laws were passed, such as 'The New Parishes Measure of 1943' which would affect us later.

A report, made as a result of the Archdeacon's visit on February 20th 1950, states that the church is in good condition and well looked after but the heating is unsatisfactory, there is gas lighting (still) and no plug in the font.

As an outcome of this report the possibility of improvements were discussed with a Mr A.P. Patey. He advised that the present system was basically alright and that electric heating would cost £600 plus labour. On his advice £200 was spent on a new boiler.

26 Another Faculty²⁶ was issued on December 30th 1952 for some improvements that must have greatly improved the appearance of St John's. The improvements were; new Altar rails, new choir stalls, a carpet, a hanging reredos, Altar frontal, credence table, flower stands and a book of remembrance. The pulpit and lectern were moved to new positions, the chancel re-paved, and a new doorway built into the clergy vestry. Quite how long these improvements took is not known, the Faculty itself suggests that the 30th June 1953 would be time enough, but it is not till 1957 that an article talks of 10 years of improvements. The money for this work came mostly from memorial gifts, approximately £640 on the new furnishings and £415 on the floor and door.

An Order in Council, dated 30th April 1953 and published in the London Gazette May 5th, under the New Parishes Measure of 1943 calls for the Parish of Redhill to be altered to 'The Parish of Saint John the Baptist, Rowlands Castle'. Here is the first official mention of the church and Rowlands Castle together.

A new directive, 'The Inspection of Churches Act 1955', led to our having a visit that year. These visits are made every five years by a competent body able to make considered recommendations, examine and put forward suggestions. There is also a form containing some 19 questions plus a further 9 on the vestry alone to be completed. The 1955 visit noted; walls and windows satisfactory, gutters recently repainted (as suggested by the Archdeaconal visit of 1950), some woodworm in the chairs and that the church had both gas and electric lighting.

The visit must have been after the 27th June for a Faculty was applied for on that day to move the font (a fact that was noticed) and to replace the font with the Children's Corner. The area left vacant in the north west corner of the church (south east according to the Faculty?) was curtained off to provide a robing room for the ladies of the choir.

Electric lighting was installed throughout the church in 1956 (replacing gas), a new carpet was laid in the nave in 1958, a processional cross 1959 and the churchwardens staves in 1960.

The last major alteration to the outside appearance of the church was made in 1963 when permission was given to glaze the western opening of the porch, to put glass doors into the eastern end and to divert the path from the west to the east doors.

In 1966 we ourselves were altered by the same act, although updated, that enabled us to be created those one hundred and fifty years ago. The Parish of St Francis was made to cater for the massive population of the new Leigh Park. The Parish of St John lost the land between Horndean Road and the railway line from Bartons arch to Wakefords (West Leigh in fact). We did gain a piece of land in this deal however, roughly speaking it was the field in which the Beacon (one of Sir G. Staunton's follies) stands.²⁷

New curtains were placed over the west and south east doors in 1966 and in the same year the old worn-out banner of St John the Baptist was replaced.²⁸

A pair of new candlesticks for the Altar were placed during 1967. They were by R. Potter who charged £130 for making them and 20 guineas for the design work.

On the 17th December 1968 a proposal was put forward for a new organ to replace the Hammond. It must have been about due for 1909 to 1939 and 1939 to 1968 sounds logical and should mean that we will be due for another update in 1999 or so. The new organ was a George and Davison with two manuals and pedals, it is of 1933 vintage but thoroughly rebuilt and was purchased from M.J. Donovan of Fareham.

A quinquennial inspection took place during 1976 (somewhere an odd year was lost, every five years from the first would be 1970, 1975 etc. but, 1971, 1976 it was and is), no significant work was needed but the vestry and transepts were redecorated. This redecorating was done by volunteers, as it was in other years and indeed, once again in 1987.

Some exterior stonework was repaired and replaced in 1979 and 1981 and in 1980 the heating system was converted to gas.

On November 24th 1982 we became part of a United Benifice with Blendworth, Chalton and Idsworth. The other two parishes (Idsworth was always combined with Chalton) had themselves been united since 1955. Economic reality and necessity brought about the change and once the rector of Blendworth retired in 1981 the chance was taken to implement the change. The Rev. Ridley was already Priest-in-charge (as opposed to Rector), Catherington and Clanfield stayed as they were and the Rev. Pinsent was appointed to the new benifice as Rector (based at Blendworth). In a way it could be said that we are back to 1837 with a Rector (patron) and dependent churches in outlying areas, where an assistant or curate (the Rev Cleaver) is in charge.

In 1986 the guttering over the chancel was re-newed, an item that was observed on the latest, 24th September 1986, Archdeacons visit (the architect, Mr Upfold, made his quinquennial inspection on 24th April).

Amongst his comments at this visit are many very favourable ones on the condition of the church and churchyard. Some minor works, small holes and cracks to the plaster and damaged window sills in the south transept, are planned to be put right for the 150th anniversary. He notes however, that there is no lightning conductor!

The major work now is the replacement and repair of the flagstones in the aisles. There are two advantages in doing this; the floor will be level and the new carpet will lay better and last longer because of it. Once again the Archdeacon notes that this work (screeding) is planned and points out that the flagstones could be sold (even at 150 years old!). He ends his report;

'The church is most commendably cared for, and well used'.

The churchyard of 1838 was very much smaller than the one we see today. The extent of this first piece of consecrated ground was no more than the area bounded by the main path to the south and the wall (probably the original) to the north. The same wall is there, in part, to the east and the western limit was marked by a bank and hedge which was removed as part of the 1929 extension of the church itself.

At various times the churchyard was extended, not always easily and not without a lot of debate and planning but always to the south and, apart from one major missed opportunity, always to its advantage.

Extensions took place in 1885, 1904, 1916(18), 1949 and 1955, although the 1916 extension was the major one and gave us the tapered shape we see now.

The first extension was discussed at the National School (I presume Redhill) on February 3rd 1885. The land given up was part of the glebe and there is an interesting stipulation to its use. There were to be no pickle or preserve jars used for flowers and there were to be no mounds, but shrubs and flowering plants were encouraged.

A story exists, and I have seen no written proof, that in or about 1900 (most likely before than after), the people of Redhill complained that people from Rowlands Castle were taking up all the space in the churchyard. Apparently, the same story tells, an order was made insisting that they be buried at Chalton. As we have seen Redhill was very much a parish of its own till 1921. The 1904 extension, just a bit further into the glebe, was consecrated on the 9th September.

There was a public meeting at the Redhill School on Wednesday August 2nd 1916 to discuss plans for an extension to the churchyard and a war memorial. The extensions eventually took up the whole of the rest of the area shown on the map and was donated by the Rev. Bowen who was promptly told by the Church Commissioners that he could not do that, nor could he accept the token payment of £50 he suggested, but it had to go into the Queen Anne's bounty. He received the interest on this sum of money added to his stipend.

The Admiral O'Callaghan was the prime moving force behind the extension and it is his report, written in 1928, that clarifies some of the issues. There were two funds set up as a result of the 1916 meeting, one for the churchyard and one for the war memorial. A cause for concern was the use of the land as a playingfield by the children from the school. They were often found trespassing in the existing graveyard and this was considered to be in very bad taste. However one half of the new addition was consecrated on February 27th 1918 and the children still used the reduced area until Mrs Stubbington (of Oaklands) donated a field for their use. The field was in use until 1974 when the majority of it disappeared under the new Redhill School. The total extension was expected to last 100 years (modern day opinion estimates to the year 2000), and the Admiral, in making his estimate, provides a sideline of his own 'which I think is very unlikely' as he refers to the method of burial in the year of 1916. The war memorial was started on April 19th 1919, a Mr Wilkin erected it for £245 not including any inscription, and Col Stubbington provided the iron railings in 1920 (11th Nov). The war memorial's position was part of the 1916 extension. The rounded corner at the Staunton Arms was on purpose for the tapered point was considered a traffic hazard even then.

The 1916 extension was complicated in 1926 by the building of the church-hall, on consecrated ground no less and taking up an estimated 44 graves worth of space. The church-hall was approved in January and opened on August 29th. It cost £245, was

built by C.H. Pitt and the Havant planning authorities insisted on it being 25ft from the road.

Another appeal was launched in 1927, this time for draining the churchyard, as the new land was found to be unsuitable. The work in fact had been satisfactorily done, the appeal was to re-coup some of the money.

The war memorial was updated on 10th January 1947, the addition of the names lost during WW II was organised by Mr Watts and the area was improved by lowering the pillars³⁰, making the central entrance and putting in the gate behind. The Rowlands Castle Home Guard provided £30 towards the cost of updating the memorial.³¹ On the 20th March 1947 however, the Rev. Forse reported that the memorial and churchyard were in a bad state, and a public meeting was held on June 10th of that year.

The 1949 extension is hard to trace, possibly no land was bought or consecrated and the date refers to an attempt to purchase land for the future.

In 1954 the small piece of land to the north of the car-park³² was bought from Portsmouth City Council for £30. The extension of 1955 was no more than the consecration of the remainder of the land bought in 1916.

The major missed opportunity? It's purely mercenary but when more land was considered desirable in 1946 the first piece the PCC were offered is the shaded area on the map. Portsmouth wanted £4,500, but it was thought to be too much!

The Churchyard Manual of 1851, a sort of sextons and rectors handbook of advice, laid down firm ideas about the propriety or otherwise of the inscriptions on tombstones. The Victorian ethics frowned upon the humour and down to earth comments that are well known but nevertheless quite rare. This new ruling urged, 'dodge any suggestion death was the end' and that, apart from the suppression of any humour, they should be 'an effective and popular medium of conveying religious instruction and improvement'. Few years passed between 1838 and 1851 so it is sad to relate that no examples of this florid old style of tombstone exists here. There is one example of a biography 'type', it is near to the south east corner and reads, 'Sacred to the memory of James Outen who was accidentally shot whilst a student at Bishops Otters College to the great grief of his Parents and friends'.

Modern day thinking tends to disapprove of this also and now advice follows the line, 'record only such information as is reasonably necessary, neither obtrusive nor presumptuous and in particular it must not be laudatory'.

The Rev. Forse uncovered the fact that in the north east corner of the churchyard, near to the sanctuary, is buried James Barton, who could be said to be famous.³³ He was a contemporary of Malthus and published pamphlets himself on the danger of the ever growing population. He lived at East Leigh House (his name is on the original list of benefactors) and it is not unlikely that the road and bridge are named after him.

There are two official war graves in the cemetery. The headstones were erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission and a letter from them, dated 25th October 1939, reminds the P.C.C. that they are paid five shillings a year to tend them. The graves are located near to the central yew tree and are to; Pte W.R. Hutchings (a Canadian) and Air Mechanic A.W. Stock. Both men died during the first world war.

Just inside the gate from the car-park is a headstone to; Hannah, wife of Andrew Adams of Maylings Farm Fareham. This is a pointer to the time when Redhill was

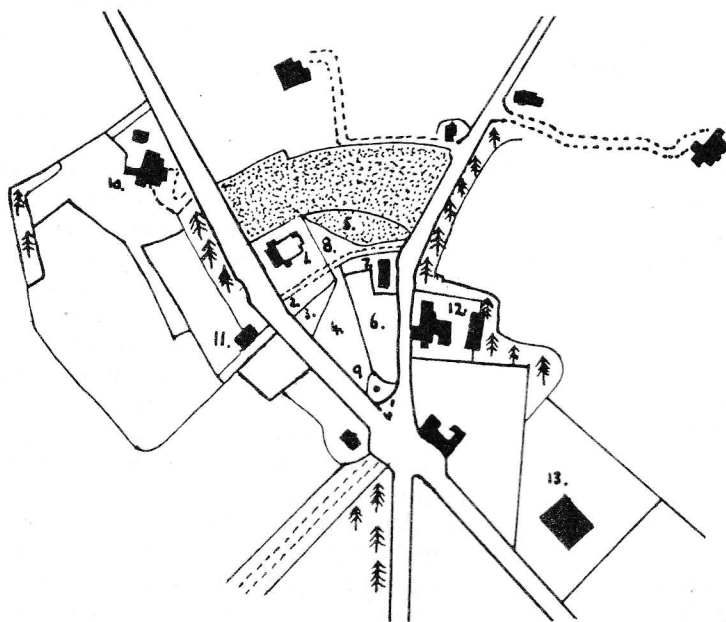
in the Parliamentary District of Fareham, which indeed it was up to the 1940's.

In towards the centre of the churchyard is the family tomb of the Fitzwygrams, inhabitants of Leigh Park House (and in the person of Sir Frederick Wellington, the M.P. for Fareham 1884 - 1900). It is in fact a crypt, the entrance being dug out (in 1985 for the last time) with the coffins resting on shelves below.

There is a grave to Emily Dexter, widow of Morton Dexter of Boston USA and a tablet, it can only be that of course, to Stuart Forbes Mitchell, Lieutenant Commander, Royal Navy, died at Melbourne, Australia, ashes were deposited at Spithead.

There are three of our own rectors buried here; Rev. J. Hawker, Rev. G. Austen and Rev. E. Bowen. Four similar tombstones near to the porch mark the graves of men from Stansted College,³⁴ a charitable institute established by Dixon, of Stansted House, in 1850.

The most popular spot is beneath the yew tree where the graves have been put in ever closer. At the back of the church are the gravestones removed at the time of the 1929 extension.³⁵ They are leaning against the wall and include another of Stansted College.



REDHILL The major changes

1. Churchyard 1838. 2. 1885 Extension. 3. 1904 Extension. 4. 1918 Extension. 5. Land bought in 1954, part of total area not bought in 1946. 6. Land consecrated in 1955. 7. Church Hall 1926. 8. Land not consecrated. 9. Memorial 1919. 10. Old rectory 1839. 11. New rectory 1949. 12. Old school and extension 1848 & 1956. 13. New school 1974. The church is shown as originally and with 1929 extension.

A plaque inside the church lists the incumbents of St John's as follows:

Perpetual Curate	
Rev. Thomas Yard	1840 – 1850
Rectors.	
Rev. John Hawker MA.	1850 – 1856
Rev. George Austen MA.	1856 – 1897
Rev. Percy A.R. Marriott MA.	1898 – 1905
Rev. E. Jenkins Bowen MA.	1905 – 1919
Rev. Canon E.G. Selwyn DD.	1919 – 1931
Rev. Harold McKay MA.	1931 – 1946
Rev. Edward J. Forse MA.	1947 – 1974
Rev. Rodney E. Stone CF.	1974 – 1980
Rev. Michael E. Ridley AKC.	1980 – 1986
Rev. Stuart D. Cleaver ACIS.	1986 –

The Reverend Yard was, as we have seen, the first real incumbent for before then the two patrons had each taken it in turns to supply a minister. The minister before the Rev. Yard was a Henry Blyth and it is quite possible that Thomas Yard got the job, as it were, only because he was in possession when the district was made into a Consolidated Chapelry (15/6/1840) and a parsonage house was built for him. The Rev. Yard was made perpetual curate but nonetheless resigned the position in March 1850 when he was presented with the living at Ashwell in the old county of Rutland.

The Rev. John Hawker succeeded and in his time the church was beautified and enlarged. Whether he was a full rector or not is open to question. In 1851, the Rev. Mountain, by then not the rector of Havant, donated some of the surplus plate (a cup and other items) to a church in Newfoundland. It was his to do with what he liked of course (see app 8) but the form still had to be signed by the two patrons, Norris and Hatchford (Havant), two churchwardens of Red-Hill and John Hawker, who signs himself as perpetual curate.

During the ministry of the Rev. G. Austen the parish became a rectory. He was educated at St Johns, Oxford and was incumbent here for forty-one years. He disputed the full title of rector himself when he disclaimed any responsibility for the chancel (see app 13).

Percy A.R. Marriott could have been the first real Rector. He was educated at Cavendish College Cambridge and was here for seven years. He later moved to St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem where he was canon. He was tragically drowned off the coast of Hafia (then in Palestine) on August 22nd 1907. The organ of 1909 was erected in memory of him.

The Rev. E. Jenkins Bowen was educated at Jesus College Oxford. From 1880 to 1902 he was the chaplain of the Bombay presidency (India). He was responsible for much of the interior furnishings of the Sanctuary.

The Rev. Canon Selwyn saw the major extension work of 1929 take place and the enlargement of the parish itself (an action that saw his stipend increased by £75 a year). He was a student of Kings Cambridge. The Rev. Selwyn was a hymn writer of some repute. He composed a popular Sea Anthem, but is more widely known for his 'Hymn of the Hampshire Countryside'. He later became Dean of Winchester.

Rev. McKay studied at Oxford. He was responsible for installing the Hammond

organ and put forward the plans for the Lady Chapel and children's corner. During his ministry the church celebrated its centenary.

The Rev. E. Forse came to Redhill in 1947 and stayed till his retirement (to the I.O.W.) in 1974. He was largely instrumental in the change which resulted in the church becoming known as St. John the Baptist Rowlands Castle. He began the goodwill visits to the chapel before that church came (as the URC) under the umbrella of the United Benifice. He served as chaplain in the Army and in Portsmouth before accepting the living at Redhill. He organised the refurbishing of the whole church and grounds, and the building of the new Rectory. Amongst his other appointments were; Chaplain to Hampshire Army Cadets, Honorary Canon of Portsmouth (1971), Rural Dean of Havant and serving on the Church Dilapidation and Parsonages Board. The Rev. Forse introduced a Patronal Festival into the calendar of village life, encouraged the Men's Meetings to have a more liberal attitude and showed great interest in the link between church and school. He will probably be best remembered for his success in putting the church onto a firm financial footing with the introduction of the share scheme.

The Rev. Stone continued the work started by the Rev. Forse, encouraging a greater participation in the share scheme and organising a special appeal for some much needed repairs. He served in the RAF and was married with three children, the first of the 'family' style incumbents we have been fortunate to have had since. He forged even closer links with the congregational chapel and generally attempted to bring about a more 'Christian awareness' into the village.

Michael Ridley came to us from a Lincolnshire diocese. He was appointed Priest-in-Charge, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser and Minister (of the URC), titles which he cheerfully explained on many occasions. He carried out all the duties of the previous rectors but had the added responsibility of administrative duties also. This was probably in preparation for the formation of the United Benifice which took place during his ministry. His work as Diocesan Adviser took him all round the area, in his words 'translating Christian belief into Christian living', but he still found time to partake in many village activities not necessarily connected with the church (including appearances for the cricket team and fund raising games of football). The Rev. Ridley went to a new appointment as Team Vicar in the North Creedy group of parishes in Devon.

Stuart Cleaver came to us from Christ Church Portsdown where he was Curate from 1983. His appointment here is as Assistant Curate with special responsibility for St. John's and Rowlands Castle. He was involved in company financial management for fifteen years before training for the ministry. Like Michael Ridley, Stuart is married with a family.

Stuart is the main motivating force behind the 150th anniversary celebrations, both ecclesiastical and secular.

8.

The table of churchwardens in the church only goes back as far as 1930. It would not be impossible to find out a complete list, but it would be no more than a column of names. It is known that in 1851 they were a Mr. John Wilkins and Newman Battman, and that A.L. Mott was one at the turn of the century. About this time there appears a poignant comment, written on a postcard, about a Mr. Tiggott being elected in his

absence. The date is 1897 and an objection came from no less a person than Sir Fitzwygram. The matter was reported to the Bishop, though whether the rector or the PCC was reported is not said. The name Tiggott does crop up again in church matters later on so it must have been settled favourably. In 1930 Miss Stubbington was, and is, the only lady member known. She organised a ladies choir that was good enough to enter local competitions. In modern times we have made Charles Pitt Churchwarden Emeritus in 1974 and since 1981 Roy Gunston has served, taking on the huge responsibility of fund raising (covenanting) as well as unstinting work in maintaining the fabric of the church itself, a task in which he has been fully supported by Harry Gill, Geoffrey Openshaw and many others.

Parish Clerk from 1891 to 1930 was Charles Overy. He was a member of the choir for twenty years and sexton to the Rev. Austen for whom he started work as a gardener in 1887. He taught gardening at Redhill school.

Two other men deserve a special mention, they are Basil Cole and Bob Bastable who are currently responsible for the beautifully maintained churchyard.

9.

The church is variously described as 'early English', 'Norman' and even 'cheap cruciform' in style, but a look around the area will show that it is a very good example of its kind, being early Victorian, flint, slate roof and with clean simple lines.

Apart from the two stones commemorating the major extensions there are other legends engraved into the stones that can be found by the careful searcher. One tells that the 1929 extension was done by; Rector E.G. Selwyn DD, Architect A.E. Stallard, Builder C.H. Pitt, and the other, 'This vestry was partly subscribed for by citizens of the United States of America'. The western wall of the vestry is in the same flint style, but the others are of brick, it could only have been a small saving to have it done so in 1929.

The glass in the porch makes it light and it is free from clutter. It has an attractive stained glass window of pleasant design, though of no significance. There is a plaque here in memory of A.L. Mott and wife.

Inside the church is light and surprisingly roomy. The high roof with timbers and plaster help to provide this and whatever the complaints about the chancel in the past they cannot be levelled now. Stand in the chancel and look up. You will see an intricate pattern of timbers at the crossing and also an idea of the first cruciform shape.

The most obvious point in the nave is the change from pews to chairs.³⁶ This is the line of the 1929 extension but there is no other trace of it, so well are the arcades and timbers matched. The heads in the spandrels are also matched, note here that in the sanctuary are two angels at the east window where you might have expected two more heads.

In the aisles are brass plaques to the Safford family and one to Lieutenant R.H. Marriott. Above the southern arch is a framed testimonial to the oldboys of St. John's school who gave their lives in the first world war. Nearby is a beautifully presented book recording the gifts made to the church. The sanctuary is perhaps the oldest unchanged part of the church, still having tiles that look original. In fact just behind the sanctuary arch are two bare spots that could mark the position of pews shown on the early seating plan. There are many plaques on the sanctuary walls and also some inscriptions. Two contain the ten commandments, in black and red on a gold background. It is not impossible to imagine these in the niches either side of the east

36

window but, in that case, what filled the other two for there are four of them? Is it possible that this is a sign of the supposed extension of the sanctuary in 1853? There are more plaques in similar style, two to the left, a scroll above the vestry door and seven exhortations behind the altar (hidden by the reredos curtain). The stained glass window depicts the crucified Jesus with Mary and probably St. John the Apostle with two angels above and the ram (symbol of John the Baptist). John the Baptist appears on the south stained window where he is baptising Jesus, there are two doves above.

In the chancel is a plaque commemorating the restriking of the bell, a three quarter hundredweight tenor, in 1938, and the 1928 processional cross, which is made from oak taken from Romsey Abbey.³⁷ Above the west door is the tablet recording the known graves disturbed during the 1929 works.

10.

The Rev. G. Mountain was also responsible for the move behind the building of the first rectory,³⁸ or charity parsonage as it was then called. Sir G. Staunton gave the land³⁹ for this building which was begun in 1839 and cost £890 (compare with £605, the cost of the church!). It was extended in 1844 and again in 1851, these extensions cost a further £1,470.

The old rectory stood in about five and a half acres of land and, in 1947 (12th March) an inventory showed it had; gas lighting, ten bedrooms, dressing rooms, bathroom with fireplace, three reception rooms plus study and a sitting room, scullery, kitchen, a bread baking room with oven and cellar. There was more, and outside . . . well, no wonder the Rev. Forse thought it was too big. It was also in a bad state of repair and was eventually sold at auction, (hence the inventory) in May 1947 for £3,500. It was renamed Woodlands and was for some years flats, it is now three separate dwellings.⁴⁰

The new rectory was built on 0.8 of an acre and begun in Autumn 1948. The Rev. Forse moved in, from lodgings during July 1949, before the house was completed. There was considerable exchanges of letters and conditions relating to the building of the new rectory, mostly to do with after-war rationing of raw materials, and restrictions on size.

The rectory cost £3,044 8s 0d (architects fee £216 0s 10d)⁴¹ and was built by the village family firm of C. Pitt snr, C. Pitt jnr, P. Pitt and H. Pitt.

In 1958 the Rev. Forse realistically increased the insurance cover from £2,800 to £7,000.

11.

In any history of our church the school must also get a mention. It is obviously of the same time and style and also of the same materials. It was also the work of the Rev. Mountain. The site was awarded as early as 21st June 1839 but the school was not built until 1848 when it cost £365. It was extended in 1877.⁴² It was extended again in 1956 when the building behind was erected. During this extension the church hall was used for a classroom, as was the small Parish Hall. This was due as much to the overcrowding (the reason for the extra classrooms) as to the dynamite used to clear the site of the trees there.

The new school was built in 1974 on the playing field. The old school is still being used as a playschool for the under fives and the 1956 extension as a remedial unit.

An undated photograph, estimated about 1900, shows 240 pupils at the school. A later newspaper article, November 24th 1957 in fact, prompted by the new extension says that there is no overcrowding. The school then had 140 pupils, 5 members of staff, a playground and playingfield. By 1970 things had changed. The Evening News wrote again saying three small classrooms and a temporary building were not enough. There was overcrowding, pupils had meals in the classroom and there was a lack of toilet facilities (this was true of course, the school was 122 years old by then).

The school has always been affiliated to the church and is a C of E. This means that a proportion of the lessons had to be of a religious nature, a fact that the Rev. Forse is reminded of in a letter dated the 16th November 1948, not that he needed it but it was in answer to another query.

Until 1949 the school took children from the age of five to fifteen, after which secondary schools came into being.

The boundary would have affected schoolchildren also with any along Finchdean Road living in Sussex going to Forestside and then Chichester and more recently Southbourne.

May 22nd 1944 probably saw one of the biggest days in the schools history, for on that day they were taken out to line the road, for King George VI was there reviewing his troops.⁴³

43

APPENDICES

1. Yes! His Majesty's, despite Victoria being on the throne since mid June. It is either a case of old forms being used or confirmation that the forms had been in the possession of the Reverends for some time.
2. Parish here means the ecclesiastical parish, an area committed to the charge of one minister in one church. St Hubert's at Idsworth being a chapel of course.
3. Sitings = seats or accommodation. Up to 1818 all seats in church were allocated but some were purchased or rented also. This practise continued but the Church Building Society, and others, only donated money on the promise that there would be a proportion of free seats.
4. An entry in a directory of Hampshire gives the accommodation of the enlarged church as 320, with 230 only still being free. Other entries, various sources and dates are; 1895 = 250, 1903 = 300, 1923 = 280, 1927 = 200, and 1931 = 200, the last figure being after another extension. A calculation made this year (1987) using the criteria of question 14 gives us a figure of 230 for the church, including the choir. The accommodation for the pews only, which is close in area to the original size, is 125.
5. In fact it was £45 4s 0d. Charles Pearson was a farmer and a brickmaker so it is probable, but not proven, that he owned land nearby on what has become known as the Triangle. The date of the conveyance of the site is March 16th 1838.
6. Queen Anne's bounty was established in 1704 and was a fund made up from donations, endowments, Annates (the first years revenue from a benefice) and some tithes. The revenue from the fund was used to supplement the income of the poorer clergy. In 1936 an Act replaced the fund with Government stock and in 1948 the Queen Anne's bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commission (1836) were combined and the Church Commissioners of England formed.
7. The chapel on the green (1798) and the one at Finchdean (1830) were not Church of England and did not count.

8. The Rev. Mountain provided the Communion plate, books and surplices but did not tell the Rev. Norris about it, a fact which gets a short comment in the latter's hand.
9. They also supplied, as endowments or tithes, an annual sum of money towards the upkeep, as did the Rev. Manley of Chalton! (if only for the duration of his own incumbancy). Permission for the alternate appointments was not given until the 4th April 1844, by which time it had stopped.
10. A Consolidated Chapelry was probably a convenient way to describe the new district without giving too much away, i.e. making it a parish. As a chapelry it points out that it is not a church and therefore, being of a chapel, not having the rights of sepulture etc., as neither would its incumbent. But, as he is named as Perpetual Curate this in itself means he cannot be dismissed by his employer (Norris and Mountain) and he would have some rights of burial etc. (registers start 1841 for baptisms and 1842 burials). He would have got no more tithes stipend or benefice than the two patrons deemed necessary.
11. The written description of the boundary might seem a bit long but in 1966, when they had a major change again in this area, an equally long and involved written description accompanied the proposals.
12. Another clue is the difference in the pitch of the roof of the nave and the aisles.
13. No real difference in the two statements but the second is more interesting. Note the spelling as Red Hill still. It is from this date that I think we can say that Red Hill is a separate parish. The title Rector would imply this, and as benefice can mean any appointment with specific duties and particular revenues but rector means the recipient of the main duties (tithes) it follows; if it was a parish he was a rector, he was a rector because it was a parish.
- An undated letter from the Rev. Austen exists in which he disclaims any responsibility for the chancel. Now, the repair and upkeep of the chancel was traditionally the responsibility of the rector but here he is denying this legal requirement because he was not in full receipt of the tithes. The rector of Havant was.
14. The letters dated 1885 are all to the Admiral M.P. O'Callaghan and seem to be about a minor dispute down Woodberry Lane only.
15. It is not certain what was there before the first organ. A note on the plan shows that an organ was located by the pulpit but it must have been a small one (harmonium perhaps?). The note could have been added at anytime so even that could have been referring to the same one.
16. A very similar area to that referred to in the correspondence of 1885. In this case the church parish boundary is the same as the civil one. The houses in West Sussex would belong to Forestside.
17. The official census of 1921 put the population of Redhill as 721. This would not have been known then of course so they used the 1911 count.
18. Local historians beware! From 1789 to 1928 the rectors of Warblington were all called Norris, and not taking the time to check, I originally thought that one of them was very old indeed.
19. The rectors of Warblington and Havant would be of right the patrons of Redhill. That is having the power to appoint an incumbent to the benefice.
20. The same plan as in 15 shows a choir vestry in a cordoned off area of the west end. The plan obviously predates the 1909 enlargement of the rector's vestry which they then probably shared.
21. The building committee contains names which villagers will remember, namely; E.G. Selwyn, J. de Laurence, M.J. Gardiner, A. Young, W.H. Dimsdale, J. Stevens, S. Burham, Mary Boulton, F. Dunning, E. Lane, Ethelreda Martin, L. Prossor, M. Richards, C. Stubbington, Winifred Stubbington, F. Sweetham, H. Taylor, G. Vance, J. Wall, A.J. West and W.H. Williamson.
22. Thunderclap, afterall, only refers to the noise. Draw your own comparisons, but could it be much worse than a 30 tonne container lorry changing gear?
23. The organ was moved nearer the motor of course, which was put outside to make the church quieter, the font was moved into the extension.
24. In fact it was a firm of solicitors, but they were acting on their behalf.

25. A dictionary definition of faculty is authorisation but here of course it has a big F and a big A. The Faculties cover all the improvements made to the church from the major ones described here down to new Bible (12/8/64). They appear to have a legal time limit for the work to be carried out by and they are issued only on the assumption that no objections have been received. To verify this a detailed note of the work to be done has to be displayed (dare I say nailed to the church door?).
26. This Faculty actually mentions the church as being, 'St. John the Baptist Redhill Rowlands Castle' all others had merely said Redhill. After this Redhill is dropped.
27. The 'New Parishes Measure 1943' was its title. We also lost the land in Havant Thicket at Bonfields. Both these areas had already been ceded to Portsmouth by the Civil Parish Council. The new Parish of St Francis became officially into being on August 29th 1968.
28. It was made in the London workshop of the Sisters of Bethany, cost £200 and took them two months to make.
29. The diagonal path is the result of this extension. It is not meant to be there as a plan of the graves (proposed) shows neat parallel lines. If you look in the hedge by Manor Lodge Road you will find the remains of a gate, which could have been the entrance to the glebe and is almost certainly the reason for this shape.
30. The pillars were lowered because the iron railings had gone towards the war effort. You can still see the stubs.
31. The war memorial, being paid for by public subscription, belongs to the village. For many years the British Legion looked after it but they handed it over to the Parish Council when they closed (the men's section that is) and now, as then, Mr Jack Levett maintains it. The memorial was refurbished in 1986.
32. The car-park was made because it was being used as such. A new entrance was put through the hedge to the church-hall in 1963 when use of the car-park increased.
33. John Barton published some of his works in Chichester. His pamphlets were noted as much for their long titles as for their vision. The shortest is 'The influence of the price of corn on the rate of Mortality' written in 1844, the longest runs to twenty-seven words.
34. Stansted College was a fine building which was demolished to make way for Stansted Close. The inhabitants were all old wine merchants who had fallen on hard times.
35. In fact only one seems to agree with the names as inscribed above the west door, and that is Hackman.
36. Only 75 now but 120 on the plan.
37. The wood is guaranteed to be 500 years old.
38. The father of Thomas Yard gave £200 towards this building.
39. It is pure conjecture but is this the site where the church was supposed to be?
40. The bungalow is a modern house of course.
41. This too was forced, the new rectory had to cost no more than was realised for the old one.
42. This work only cost £100.
43. The lead up to D Day and the reason for the Kings Stone.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to record my thanks to all the village people who provided information, memories and answers. Without your help this history would not have been finished. I would also like to thank the staff of the Portsmouth Record Office, without your advice and expertise this history would not even have been begun. Special thanks must go to the Reverend Stuart Cleaver and Roy Gunston and lastly, but not least, to Words&Spaces for the typesetting and Mr Martindale for printing.

Paul Marshman, March 1987

MARDEN CLEANERS

WINDOW and GENERAL
CLEANING SPECIALISTS

Free Estimates
Regular Service

Phone: Compton 377
or Horndean 592488

PERFUMES

GIFTS

JEWELLERY

**Rowlands Castle
Drug Store**
(MARCELLA POTTER)

Rowlands Castle 412142

BABY CARE

MEDICINES

COSMETICS

OLD FORGE POTTERY

The style favoured by the Potters is simple, functional and well proportioned with glazes that have the warmth and charm of natural colours. The range is extensive, from complete dinner services, coffee sets, ovenware, wine bottles and goblets to exciting individually designed pots. Large decorative platters and uniquely styled clocks are specialties of the Pottery. Every item is hand thrown and personally signed. Many appreciative customers from this country and overseas have been collecting items made by the Pottery for many years — antiques of the future perhaps?

37 Durrants Road, Rowlands Castle
Rowlands Castle 412632

PROFESSIONAL PLUMBING
& HEATING SPECIALISTS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

A. A. Barrett

14, Whitehaven,
Horndean,
Hants.

Tel. Horndean 592696

G. S. Chandler

Professional wall and floor tiling
Transform your home with beautiful ceramic tiles

Member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen
Free Estimates

8 Woodberry Lane, Rowlands Castle
Tel. Rowlands Castle 412895

A Friendly Service awaits you at

NEWSAGENTS

TOBACCONISTS

BOB and SUE

JENKINS

Castle News

5 THE GREEN

Confectionery, Stationery and Toys

Agents for Shoe Repairs

Agents for Dry Cleaning

NEWSPAPERS DELIVERED DAILY

7-6 Mon - Fri (5.30 Sat) 8-12.30 Sun

Rowlands Castle 412222

GRAHAM AND DIANE GRIFFITHS
WELCOME YOU

Greetings Cards
Confectionery
Stationery

TO YOUR FRIENDLY VILLAGE
POST OFFICE

The Green
Rowlands Castle
Hants

Tel. Rowlands Castle 412341

H. & P. PITT

(Formerly PITT BROS)

General House Repairs, Plumbing,
Decorating, Carpentry, Roofing etc.
Estimates Free.



Waterlooville 256817
Rowlands Castle 412939

1, THE DRIFT, ROWLANDS CASTLE

BLENDWORTH TYRES LIMITED

Agricultural & C.V. Tyre Specialists

All Major Giant Tyre Repairs

DISTRIBUTORS OF MICHELIN, GOODYEAR,
MOHAWK AND SEMPERIT TYRES

BLENDWORTH TRAILER CENTRE

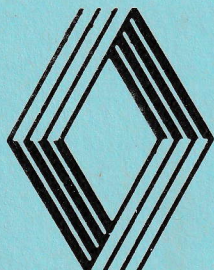
MOST TYPES OF TRAILERS FOR SALE AND HIRE.

SPECIALISTS IN TOWBAR FITTING

WHICHERS GATE SELF SERVE, ROWLANDS CASTLE 412731 /2

H. E. HALL (Rowlands) Ltd.

MOTOR ENGINEERS



BODY REPAIRS
SERVICING



RENAULT

M.O.T. TESTING

COMPUTER DIAGNOSTIC TUNING

Free collection and delivery in the area

PERSONAL ATTENTION

24hr. RECOVERY SERVICE

AND BREAKDOWN

ROWLANDS CASTLE 412244

(Night Horndean (0705) 597576)

WORKSHOP.

THE GREEN

ROWLANDS CASTLE