

## NOTES.

## ASHENDON CHURCH.

In the latter half of 1923 some work was done in this finely situated Church which had the effect of showing very clearly the arch leading to the chapel formerly standing on the North side of the nave. This is a plain pointed arch of two square orders (c. 1250) with a plain label and chamfered abaci and pillars. Within the arch is a large "squint," or diagonal opening, and a doorway. What alteration in the north, transeptal chapel led to the introduction of these openings is not clear.

The "restoration" of the Church included the destruction of an unsightly enclosure used as a vestry, and the removal of the font to the West End of the nave. The interesting furniture has been placed in the chancel; several consecration crosses have been revealed, and on the South-west diagonal buttress of the tower a very good incised sundial has been observed.

The Eagleton tombstone in the Churchyard (close to the South porch) has already been recorded in the Historical Monuments Commissioners' Report (I. 15), but the lower part of the inscription has now been revealed; it reads as follows:—

Life's uncertain  
Death is shuer  
Sin is the wound  
And Christ the cuer.

The date is 1661.

During the execution of the work inside the Church the plaster was stripped off and has not been replaced; the rubble has been pointed, and affords a very rugged surface. The famous effigy of a knight in chain mail in the chancel still retains the long plaster neck which the misplaced zeal of former restorers gave him.

## PENN CHURCH.

Work was necessary upon the roof of the nave during 1923, and in the course of it Mr. L. K. Hall, the architect, found that the plaster ceiling of the nave concealed some interesting woodwork, presumably of the fifteenth century. The underside of the rafters and intermediates is heavily moulded in the solid. There are eight rafters in one bay, 11 feet 8 inches wide; beneath the purlin is a piece of wood with a trefoil head, behind which thin boards had been slipped, and, at some date, coloured red.

The whole five bays on the south side of the nave now show this woodwork; the space formerly occupied by the thin boards spoken of above has been ceiled in the usual way, and displays clearly the interesting decoration of a roof which had already been commended by the Historical Monuments Commissioners.

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MAIDS-MORETON CHURCH.

The Rev. W. Keatinge Clay, rector of Maids-Moreton, writes as follows: "Considerable trouble has been taken by the churchwardens and myself in dealing with the fan-vaulted canopy at the west doorway. Expert advice has been sought, and a fund has been started to meet the expense of restoration. Meanwhile temporary measures have been taken as a precaution; all cracks in the stone work have been carefully stopped to protect them from the weather, and props have been placed so as to prevent the possible fall of stone. The Society for the Preservation of Ancient Monuments state that the primary cause of dislocation in the doorway is a long-standing settlement of the south-western side of the tower, which may have occurred soon after the church was built. While there is no immediate fear of collapse necessary steps will be taken as soon as funds are available."

Since Maids-Moreton Church has probably suffered less from "restoration" than any other church in the county, it is hoped that members will assist in a wisely-planned reparation;—let us avoid the more objectionable word!

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### NEWTON LONGVILLE DOVECOT.

There seems a possibility that the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings may take into its care the dovecot at Newton Longville Manor House. New College, Oxford, as Lord of the Manor, is willing to contribute a considerable sum, which is said, however, only to be sufficient for the reparation of the building, and the Society requires a capital sum (estimated at £100) to provide a small income for its upkeep.

The Historical Monuments Commissioners assign the building to the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century; it is constructed with closely-set timbers between which is a brick nogging. The internal dimensions are 14 feet 8 inches,—it is a square,—and the walls are lined with 360 nesting-boxes made of oak, the only example of such construction in our county. The pyramidal roof has become ruinous, and ivy has been allowed to encroach to a degree which has rapidly hastened its ruinous condition within recent years.

Our Society sympathises most sincerely with the efforts to preserve this extremely interesting structure, but it has no funds available for the proposed endowment. All members who wish to aid the good work of preserving a building which stands alone in the county (where all other dovecots are of stone or of brick) are invited to contribute to this worthy object, either directly to the Society at 20, Buckingham Street, Adelphi, W.C.2, or through the medium of our Honorary Secretary.