

## A MEDIEVAL PAINTING IN WINGERWORTH CHURCH.

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A NUMBER of interesting discoveries have been made in Wingerworth Church, near Chesterfield, during recent restoration work. The most notable has been the uncovering by Mrs. Eve Baker of a painting, ascribed to the late 12th century, on the inner face of the low Norman chancel arch. When a piece of the loose and crumbling plaster was removed, traces of colouring were found. Mrs. Baker subsequently revealed the painting of the head of Christ with four saints, as yet unidentified, all in roundels. The fresco, badly fractured in places, has been temporarily patched, until such time as it can be properly restored. The pigments, among which an orange-red predominates, are remarkably unfaded, though some slight fading seems to have taken place since their exposure.

At the same time, writing was discovered on the south wall of the nave, which proved to be the Ten Commandments. Although the script itself was beautiful, the plaster was so friable through age and dampness that it was eventually decided not to attempt restoration. The writing presumably dates from the immediate post-Reformation period.

In addition to its interesting Norman features, the south doorway, the south arcade and the chancel arch, Wingerworth Church has retained an unusual rood-loft. This has now had successive layers of paint removed from it, and the wood, with its good marking, now looks not unlike limed oak. An open timberwork roof has also been revealed by the removal of the plaster ceiling.