

## RESTORATION OF ST. MARY'S, LAVENDON.

This fine old Church has lately undergone a thorough work of restoration, which has been effected chiefly through the efforts of the Rev. William Tomkins, rector, and patron of the advowson. The Church is one of great antiquity, some portions of it—the tower, certainly—being of Saxon origin. The interior of the Church has been almost entirely renewed. The high pews have been removed, and very chaste open seats have been substituted for them. The whole Church has been newly floored, the chancel re-roofed and paved with Minton's tiles. The chancel has also been supplied with new oak stalls, prayer desk, and rails. Two of the columns on the north side had given way, and have had new foundations, and the windows have been supplied with new stone jambs, where necessary. A very handsome painted window has been presented by Mr. Churchwarden Brookes, of the Grange, for the east end of the Church; and a memorial turret window, for the south, has been presented by Mr. Churchwarden Coles. The restoration of the Church has been effected by Mr. W. Parker, builder, of Thrapstone, from the designs, and under the superintendence, of W. Butterfield, Esq., architect, London. The Church was reopened for divine service on Friday, the 4th of November, 1859, the Bishop of Oxford and the Archdeacon of Buckingham being present on the occasion.

DISCOVERY OF A VAULT IN THE CHURCHYARD,  
AT CHESHAM.

As some workmen were employed repairing the main path leading from the vicarage to the parish Church, they came in contact with some bricks; and, upon further examination, found steps descending into a vault, in which were discovered eight coffins, which were fallen into great decay. Some of them appeared to be much older than others, and of five of them no inscription could be deciphered. The other three, which were evidently of a much later date, were, after considerable difficulty, deciphered, from which it appears to have been the vault of a family of the name of West. The dates are as follows:—W. West, Esq., died February 13th, 1721, aged 86 years. Miss Johanna West, died July 18th, 1746, aged 28 years. Richard West, died December 21st, 1752, aged 52 years.