

what bishops have to bear in mind in imposing penances, and he draws attention to various excusing factors. All of these matters are directly relevant to Tanner's introduction.

Despite the elegant and unflustered hand in which these proceedings were written, and the standardised form of the legal record, the grim human predicaments involved cannot be ignored. Tanner's reliable editorial work reveals the religious thoughts and actions of several ordinary men and women on the eve of the Reformation as seen through the eyes of the law. It is ironic that the proceedings against persons from a predominantly artisan group of moderate wealth were conducted by a number of powerful men who were themselves destined for a stormy future because of their religious beliefs. Thus, when John Browne, a cutler from Ashford, was condemned in 1511 as a heretic and handed over to the secular arm, Archbishop Warham presided and amongst those assisting him were Cuthbert Tunstall and John Fisher. The king, to whom Browne was handed over, was Henry VIII.

*SURVEYING HISTORIC BUILDINGS* by DAVID WATT and PETER SWALLOW, Donhead Publishing Ltd, Lower Coombe, Donhead St Mary, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9LY, 1996, xii+302 pp. (hardback £35) ISBN 1-873394-16-0.

A review by Chancellor Rupert Bursell, QC

This is yet another excellent volume in an excellent series. It is primarily concerned with historic buildings in general although, of necessity, this embraces many churches. As well as dealing with all major structural problems, it also deals with particular matters such as wall paintings. Nor does its interest to church people end there: not only does this volume deal with church ruins—an important question as the recent discovery of early wall paintings in Norwich show—but it is relevant too to other historic buildings owned by dioceses and cathedrals alike. Regrettably, however, not many ecclesiastical surveyors will need to check property boundaries by reference to the Luftwaffe aerial photographs: they are kept in America!

With reference to quinquennial inspections the authors comment that amendments to the law brought in by the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 now permit 'other suitably qualified and experienced professionals' to undertake such inspections in addition to architects. In fact the amendment merely states that 'a qualified person or persons' may perform the work and I suspect that this refers to professional qualifications rather than to experience. The volume itself, however, underlines the necessity for such experience even when the historic building is itself modern.

In spite of its fascination this volume will not find its way onto the shelves of many clergy or lawyers although it ought at the least to be made available to every Diocesan Advisory Committee. Some of its information should, nevertheless, be given wider circulation. More particularly is this so in relation to the bodies that assist in the recording of art and antiques, risk assessment and the tracing of stolen property. The bibliography, too, is to be commended and in particular its listing of bookshops where specialist items may be obtained.