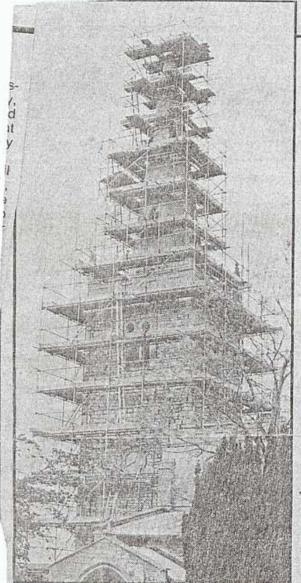
LRTE 1970



All Saints' church, Branston.



Dave Greaves of H. Jowett's shows the bullet holes on the vane.

Trigger-happy vandals target weather vane

MYSTERY marksmen have been using Branston church weather vane as a target, workmen carrying out a facelift have discovered.

Three large bullet holes have been found by the stonemasons carrying out a £10,000 renovation programme on the tower and spire of All Saints church, and stained glass windows have also been hit.

"We often find this when we get up spires. The weather vanes are favourite target for people using air rifles and the like," said a spokesman for the firm, H. Jowett, of Not-tingham.

Church Warden, Mr. Bentley Nelstrop, explained the work being carried out was mainly on the stonework, the clock, and repairs to stop water coming in the tower.

Some of the work might well be needed because of the legacy of a disastrous fire which gutted all but the tower and spire in 1962.

"It is costing about £10,000. Taking out fees and VAT the work itself is costing £7,000 and about half of that is just for hiring the scaffolding," he said.