

BISHOP OF COLCHESTER PERFORMS CEREMONY

Church Filled For Dedication Service

DR. WILLIAM HARVEY, physician to James I. and Charles I., famous for his discovery of the circulation of the blood, died on June 3rd, 1657, and was buried in Hempstead Village Church.

In 1882 the tower of the Church fell down and for many years five church bells stood in the churchyard. In 1957, the then President of Harveian Society (Mr. Arthur Dickson-Wright) was responsible for leading a scheme to rebuild the tower and re-hang the bells.

Dr. Harvey was aged 80 when he died and on Sunday (June 3rd), 80 years after the tower fell down, a new tower and rehanging bells were dedicated by the Bishop of Colchester (the Rt. Rev. F. D. V. Narborough).

The cost of restoring the tower and bells was approximately £14,000 and the money came from the William Harvey Memorial Fund and from members of the Harveian Society.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Hempstead church, which can seat about 200 persons, was filled to overflowing on Sunday. A crowd of 300 stood outside listening to the relayed service.

Among the distinguished guests were the President of the Royal Docks, the President of the Harveian Society (Mr. David Matthews), the vice-chairman of the County Council (Ald. S. W. Millard) and Mrs. Millard, the chairman of the Saffron Walden R.D.C. (Mr. G. T. Nunn) and the Mayor

There are now six bells in the tower and a new clock. The clock has been given by the people of the parish.

Sunday's service included a ceremony when the Bishop knocked on the west door (at the base of the tower) with his staff to be admitted.

EFFECTUAL SYMBOL

The service itself was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. J. Rycraft) and the church choir was augmented by that of Saffron Walden Parish Church, with Mr. J. Dyer at the organ.

In a short address the Bishop said he would like the tower and bells to signify something far wider than a mere restoration.

"I want them," he said, "to be an effectual symbol of an alliance between religion and science. That alliance was ever in the mind of William Harvey and his scientific contemporaries. It was, indeed, his belief in God and his love of God which inspired his research and discoveries."

Appealing for such an alliance, the Bishop said it should be on the broadest possible basis and offered the expression "scientific means to Christian ends."

After the service the congregation and villagers were entertained to tea at Church Farm.



The Bishop performs the Dedication while the Rev. Rycraft holds a bell rope.