

tower arch and chancel arch were rebuilt. The architect was Mr Samuel Knight of London. The work of rebuilding the tower did not commence until 1933, although some of the stonework had been carefully stored in the Harvey Vault, and four bells which had survived were stood in the churchyard.

The cost of rebuilding was met by the William Harvey Memorial Fund and the Harveian Society of London. Work stopped in 1934, after two-thirds of the tower had been built, for want of £1,000, and started again in 1959, when completion cost £14,000! The tower was dedicated by the Bishop of Colchester in 1962 and in the following year it won a Civic Trust Award. The builders were Bakers of Danbury and the architect was Stanley Bragg, although the designs were greatly influenced by Colonel S A Smith - a Churchwarden and a former Royal Engineer.

WHAT TO SEE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

A memorable feature of St Andrew's is its splendid elevated setting, beside a little lane and set sedately above the houses in the valley beneath it. The exterior is dominated by the sturdy western tower which, although comparatively new, is distinctive and of noble proportions, which are greatly enhanced by the gabled angle-buttresses strengthening it at the corners. Some 15th century stonework survives in the grand west doorway, flanked by massive corbel-heads and in the stone armorial shields which are set in traceried panels within the flint base-course. The lofty and handsome three-light west window has elegant reticulated (net-like) tracery, which was in use around 1330. By contrast, the belfry windows are simple rectangular apertures, with louveres made of perspex. The plain parapet, with its raised corners, is faced with knapped flints, which have been split to expose their dark cores.

The two-light windows of the aisles date from 1887, but are in the style of the mid 14th century. The chancel has two square-headed double 15th century windows and the tall single window to the west of these may have been a 'low-side' window, with an aperture in its lower half for the ringing of an external bell during parts of the Mass in mediaeval times. The mellow Tudor brick east wall has a three-light window. Of brick also are the north chapel and vestry (of 1655), with original windows and door. Beneath is the vault of the Harveys, and a careful look into the grating will reveal glimpses of the lead coffins inside.

The simple 19th century timber porch incorporates, near the inner entrance, mediaeval carved spandrels, with coats of arms, which are re-used from the original 15th century porch.

WHAT TO SEE INSIDE THE CHURCH

The aisles are separated from the nave by graceful 14th century arcades of four bays, resting upon quatrefoil piers, with moulded capitals and bases. Above the arches runs a continuous hood-mould, resting upon four fine and well-preserved 14th century stone faces, with modern blocks where the others once were.

The font has a plain square bowl, with chamfered corners, resting upon a large circular central shaft, with four smaller corner shafts, probably fashioned in the 13th century. On the windowsill nearby is a fine wooden model of the church, with its original tower and on the west window sill is a fragment of Stephen Tonne's tenor bell, of 1575, with its inscription. In the east wall of the south aisle chapel is a pretty 14th century piscina, indicating that an altar stood here in mediaeval times.

On the north aisle wall hang the Royal Arms of King George IV, painted upon canvas, also the hatchment of Admiral Sir

Eliab Harvey, who died in 1830. He was an MP for 21 years and commanded the Fighting Temeraire - the supporting ship to Nelson's Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar. As his three sons predeceased him, he was the last of the male line of the Harveys. The hatchment was damaged when the tower fell, but was beautifully restored by Sir Francis Whitmore in 1958.

The roofs of the nave and aisles date from 1887, but the framework of the simple chancel roof is mediaeval. Of 1887 also are most of the furnishings. The pulpit (with its lovely open-work tracery) and the lectern were carved by the Rev'd J Escreet, who was Curate-in-Charge here from 1887-1905, and who also carved some of the woodwork in the porch. The tall standard candlesticks in the sanctuary were given in his memory after his death in 1925.

The priest's stall, at the east end of the nave, incorporates two mediaeval benches, with carved terminations in the form of leaves and with two hairy faces for arm-rests.

The focal-point of the church is the High Altar, which was given to the church in 1977 by Mr W G Freeman and forms a very worthy contribution to the interior, its coloured frontals adding colour to the sanctuary. More colour is provided by the tapestries, made by Mrs Pat Thomas, in the recesses which flank the east window. These and the tapestry kneeders were dedicated by the Bishop of Colchester in 1992.

In the south wall of the sanctuary are two 15th century recesses. The eastern one is a piscina into which the water from the washing of the priest's hands at the Mass was poured. The other may have served as a credence, where the bread and wine were placed before use. Both recesses must have been moved here when the chancel was shortened in the 16th century.

A door which is at least 400 years old leads to the spacious vestry, containing the 16th century oak parish chest with its three

locks (the priest and the Churchwardens had keys, and all three had to be present in order to open it), also 19th century photographs of the church, taken before and after the collapse of the tower.

In the north chapel may be seen many of the church's interesting monuments (described later). Beneath its floor of 17th century pammets is the Harvey vault, containing some 49 lead coffins of members of this family. These are of interest, because 7 are cast roughly in the shape of human beings, the faces of which are believed to be in the likeness of their occupants when living.

MEMORIALS

The church is rich in memorials to people of the past who have been associated with it. The oldest of these may be seen in the floors of the nave and chancel.

In the centre of the chancel is a large stone slab of about 1300, around the edge of which is a French inscription in Lombardic letters, which reads; 'Dame Margerie de Basingge gist ici dieu desa aime eit merci. Amen'. (Dame Marjery de Basing lies here. May God have mercy upon her soul.)

There are several brasses, also the indents of others which are now lost. Those in the nave gangway, from west to east, are as follows:

- Nicely preserved effigy of a gentleman, and beneath him are his ten sons. His wife and daughters are missing. This dates from c. 1518 and commemorates William and Ann Mordaunt. He was chief Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas.
- Indents of another couple and of their children beneath.
- Smaller brasses of a gentleman and his wife - c. 1475.

- Indent of an inscription.
- Inscription to Richard and Jane Westley - c. 1518.
- Effigy of a gentleman (c. 1480) and indents for his wife and children.
- Effigies of a gentleman (with a gypciere on his belt) and his wife (c. 1530). Two rectangular plates beneath them show their children. The inscription is missing.

Beneath the entrance arch to the chapel from the north aisle is a fine brass to Thomas Huntingdon and his wife, Margaret. He died in 1492 and is dressed in armour. Four shields remain at the corners, but the inscription is missing.

There are several wall memorials to members of the Harvey family. At the east end of the north aisle is commemorated their most famous member - Dr William Harvey, Chief Physician to King Charles I, who discovered the circulation of the blood. His bust here is said to be a very good likeness of him (with one eye slightly larger than the other and traces of former palsy down one side of his face). The sculptor was Edward Marshall. Opposite is a plaque to Admiral Eliab Harvey's son, Edward, who was killed whilst fighting the French at Burgos.

The Harvey monuments in their chapel are as follows:

WEST SIDE

- Admiral Sir Eliab Harvey (whose hatchment hangs in the north aisle), by H Hopper of London. He died in 1830 and his son, William, is also commemorated here.

EAST WALL

- A large (10 x 6 feet) marble monument, giving names and details of the members of the Harvey family who are

buried in the vault. It begins with Sir Eliab Harvey, a London merchant, who died in 1661 and mentions his children, their wives and some of his grandchildren.

- William Harvey of Roehampton (1719) and Bridget, his wife (1701). A recess containing a huge circular marble plinth, surmounted by a flaming urn. Above is a coat of arms, decorated with garlands of flowers.

- William Harvey of Chigwell and of Wincelov Hall, Hempstead. A noteworthy monument in grey and white marble, with drape-shaded medallions showing their faces in profile. It is the work of the famous Louis Roubiliac and was erected in 1758 by Mary Harvey, who was later commemorated upon it.

In the centre of the chapel is a large sarcophagus, made (by Maile and Sons) from a single block of Carrara marble. It contains the remains of Dr William Harvey, which were placed here by the Royal College of Physicians in 1883.

THE TOWER

The tower contains a ring of six bells. There were five in the old tower, but the tenor (cast by Stephen Tonne of Bury St Edmunds in 1575) was damaged and was recast into two bells by Mears & Stainbank of Whitechapel. Its inscription is preserved in the church. The four surviving bells were cast by Anthony Bartlet (1664), Thomas Gardiner (1751), John Tonne (16th century) and Christopher Hodson (1678).

Amongst the church plate is a Tudor chalice, made in 1561, also a bowl with two handles, which was made in 1630, originally for some secular use.

The registers of Baptisms and Marriages date from 1664, and Burials from 1665. The older ones are deposited at Essex County Record Office.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW

Welcome to the Parish Church of St. Andrew, which serves one of the many extremely attractive and picturesque villages for which this corner of Essex is noted. Hempstead is studded with a variety of charming houses and cottages and its beauty is enhanced by many fine trees. The notorious highwayman, Dick Turpin, was born at the local Inn and was baptised in this church in September 1705. Dr William Harvey (1578-1657), who discovered how the blood circulates around the body, is buried here - and this church is a place of pilgrimage for students of medicine throughout the country and beyond.

Hempstead was known as 'Hamesteda' in the Domesday Book of 1086. It is suggested that its name may indicate a homestead, or that the 'Hemp' prefix either refers to the plant of that name, or means a high place. The latter is certainly true of the situation of the church in its commanding position above the village - its bold western tower brooding sentinel-like over the community beneath it.

SOME LANDMARKS IN THE CHURCH'S HISTORY

We know that the nave and aisles were consecrated by Simon of Sudbury, on January 8 1365, when he was Bishop of London and the oldest parts of the building date probably from the years just before its consecration. It was built as a Chapel of Ease to the parish church of Great Sampford and was not a parish church in its own right. Bishop Simon however, through an error, consecrated the churchyard here, to which only parish churches were entitled. Thus Hempstead church must be unique in having enjoyed

the privileges of a parish church whilst being only a chapel of ease from 1365 until April 1977, when the present united benefice of Radwinter with Hempstead came into being. Hempstead then became a parish in its own right!

The architecture of the first half of the 14th century can be seen in the nave arcades and in the (renewed) aisle windows. The chancel windows show the Perpendicular architecture of the 15th century and the east end was rebuilt in Tudor brick during the early 16th century. The chancel is now quite short and was almost certainly longer before the east wall was rebuilt. In 1655, the north chapel and vestry were erected by Dr Harvey's brother, Eliab over the Harvey vault.

The church remained structurally unaltered until great misfortune struck in 1882, when the tower collapsed - due, it is thought, to weakness and decay in the south-east buttress and staircase-turret (also on the south side), which was cracked and warped. Photographs taken at the time show that the tower, which fell southwards, was reduced to a heap of rubble and that parts of the nave were badly damaged by the fall. The old tower was 15th century - a noble structure, with two-light belfry windows. Its staircase turret reached to the level of the embattled parapet, upon which hung a small bell. A photograph taken shortly after the collapse shows that the nave had a plaster ceiling, strengthened with tiebeams, and some of the old box-pews remained.

A thorough restoration of the church made it usable again for worship and it was reopened in May 1888. The outer walls of the aisles and their windows were rebuilt and the present porch was erected, also the

St Andrew's Hempstead



TO OUR VISITORS.....

We hope that you have enjoyed the beauty of this ancient church and that you have felt 'at home' here in our Father's House. The people of this village are justly proud of this building, which is in regular use for Christian worship - the purpose for which it was built. This is why generations of Hempstead folk from the 14th Century to the present day have tended it and beautified it.

Please pray for the priest and people whose spiritual home this is, who would welcome with real gratitude any contribution that you can spare which will help keep St Andrew's intact and beautiful for future generations to use and to enjoy.

May Almighty God bless and keep you

THE PARISH HISTORY

It is known that the nave and aisles were consecrated by Simon of Sudbury on May 8 1362, when he was Bishop of London and the oldest part of the building probably from the years just before a consecration. It was built as a church of ease to the parish church of St Andrew, and was not a parish church in its own right. Bishop Simon had an altar consecrated the church of ease to the parish church of St Andrew, and was not a parish church in its own right. Bishop Simon had an altar consecrated the church of ease to the parish church of St Andrew, and was not a parish church in its own right. Bishop Simon had an altar consecrated the church of ease to the parish church of St Andrew, and was not a parish church in its own right.