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Hempstead

Parish Church of St. Andrew stands on the E. side of the village. The walls are of flint rubble, with dressings of limestone and clunch, except the E. wall and those of the N. chapel and vestry, which are of brick. The roofs are covered with tiles. The Nave, with N. and S. aisles, was built c.1350. In the 15th century the Chancel was probably rebuilt, and the West Tower was added. In the 16th century the E. end of the chancel was rebuilt in brick. In the 17th century the North Chapel and Vestry were added. Late in the 19th century the W. tower fell, and the church was generally restored in 1887, when the chancel-arch and tower-arch and the North and South Aisles were rebuilt, and the South Porch was added.

The 17th-century lead coffins, with modelled faces, in the Harvey vault, are remarkable.

Architectural Description - The Chancel (22½ ft. by 17 ft.) has a 16th-century E. window of three four-centred lights under a square head with a moulded external label; the mullions are modern. In the N. wall is a 17th-century doorway to the N. vestry with chamfered jambs and three-centred arch, all covered with plaster; further W. is a rectangular opening to the N. chapel. In the S. wall are three windows; the easternmost

window is of the 15th century, much restored, and of two cinquefoiled lights under a square head; the middle window is similar to the first, but the sill is carried down lower than the other; the westernmost window is modern, except part of the sill. Between the two eastern windows is a modern doorway. The chancel-arch is modern.

The North Vestry (17½ ft. by 11½ ft.) is entirely of the 17th century. In the E. wall is a window of two plain pointed lights with a moulded external label; further N. is a doorway with chamfered jambs and depressed arch. In the N. wall is a window similar to that in the E. wall, but without a label.

The North Chapel (17½ ft. by 10½ ft.) is entirely of the 17th century, and has, in the E. wall, a window of three lights, similar to that in the E. wall of the vestry; the mullions and sill are modern. In the W. wall is a modern arch.

The Harvey Vault, under the E. chapel and vestry, has in the E. wall and in the N. wall, a 17th century window with chamfered jambs and square head.

The Nave (36 ft. by 19 ft.) has 14th-century E. and S. arcades each of four bays, with two-centred arches of two moulded orders, and moulded labels in the nave; the columns and responds have clustered shafts with moulded capitals and bases.

The North Aisle (8 ft. wide) is modern, but the three windows in the N. wall have moulded rear arches, possibly of 14th-century material, re-cut. Between the two western windows is a 14th-century doorway, now blocked, with jambs and two-centred head of two moulded orders, slightly restored; the rear arch is

moulded. In the W. wall the modern window has a moulded rear arch and external label of the 14th century.

The South Aisle (3 ft. wide) is modern, and has, in the E. wall, a window of two lights, all modern, except the sill and bases of the moulded jambs and mullion, which are of the 14th century. The three windows in the S. wall and the one in the W. wall are uniform with those in the corresponding walls of the N. aisle. The S. doorway is uniform with the N. doorway but is not blocked.

The West Tower (about 14 ft. by 13 ft.) fell down in the 15th century, and only the plinth of the N. wall, the base of the right-angled N.W. buttresses, and part of the N. jamb of the W. door now remain above ground. The moulded plinth has flint chequer-work panels. The tower-arch is modern and is blocked. The 15th-century jamb of the W. doorway is of two moulded orders; near it, above the plinth, is one trefoiled ogee-headed panel with a shield, above a chevron engrailed, probably for Winslow. A large quantity of worked stones from the fallen tower are now stored in the Harvey vault and include a carved gargoyle and three panels similar to that still in situ; the shields bear (a) a fesse with a label of three points; (b) the same with a ring on the centre point of the label; (c) blank.

The Roofs of the N. vestry and N. chapel are flat and each has a 17th-century chamfered beam. The ceiling of the Harvey vault has a large step-chamfered beam and plain joists of the 17th century.

Fittings - Bells: five and sanctus; sanctus now in vestry, 3th lying in churchyard, rest in wooden shed in churchyard: 1st by

Anthony Martlet, 1564; 3rd by John Tonne, 16th-century, inscribed "Barbara sirenum melos dulcedine vinco"; 4th by John and Christopher Hodson, 1678; 5th by Stephen Tonne of Bury St. Edmunds, 1575; sanctus dated 1662. Brasses and Indents.

Brasses: In N. chapel - (10) said to be of [Thomas Huntington, 1488, and Margaret (Tyrrell) his wife,] figure of man in plate armour and woman in pedimental head-dress, four shields (a) fretty a chief with three molets thereon, for Huntington; (b) Huntington impaling two cheverons and a border engrailed with a cinquefoil for difference, for Tyrrell; (c) Huntington quartering 1 and 4 nine crosslets fitchy, 2 and 3 a cheveron and a quarter with a lion therein; (d) Huntington impaling Tyrrell quartering 2 and 3 three scutcheons, 4 barry wavy a chief; indent of inscription. In nave - (7) of civilian and wife, c.1530[?], with two groups of children and indent of inscription; (6) of civilian, c.1480, with indents of figure of wife and two groups of children; (5) to Richard Westley, 1518, and Joan his wife, inscription only; (3) of civilian and wife, c.1475, with indent of inscription; (1) said to be of [William Mordaunt, 1518, and Anne (Huntington) his wife], large figure of man in fur-trimmed cloak, group of ten sons, indents of figure of wife, group of daughters and four shields. Indents: In nave - (8) of floriated cross, with animal at base, and marginal inscription; (4) of inscription plate; (2) of figures of man and wife c.1480, two groups of children, and inscription plate. Chest: In vestry, of oak with three strap-hinges, angles strengthened by irons which pass through the

angle-stiles, three locks, probably 16th-century. Doors: In chancel - in doorway to vestry, of battens with chamfered three-panel frame planted on, 18th or 19th-century, head probably 17th-century. In E. doorway of vestry - battened door with small drop-handle, solid leaded frame, 17th-century.

Font: square tapering bowl, with corners cut off, on round central shaft and four small detached shafts, all with moulded capitals and bases, c.1550. Monuments and Floor-slabs.

Monuments: In N. chapel - against E. wall, (1) to members of the Harvey family - Eliab, 1661, Sarah his daughter, 1655, Elizabeth, another daughter, 1656; Mary his wife, 1673; Sir Eliab Harvey, 1693; Eliab, son of Sir Eliab, 1681; Elizabeth, wife of Edward Harvey, 1695; Matthew, son of Sir Eliab, 1692; Mary, daughter of the third Eliab, wife of Sir William Whitmore, baronet, 1710; large black and white marble monument with cleft pediment and cartouche of arms; (2) to Sir William Harvey, of Echampton, 1719, and Bridgett (Browne) his wife, 1701, large white marble monument with a column and urn, in a recess, impaled coat of arms. In N. aisle - on N. wall (3) of William Harvey, chief physician to James I and Charles I, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, 1657, black and white marble tablet with crest and cartouche of arms.

Floor-slabs: In chancel ⁽⁹⁾ to Margerie de Basingge with marginal inscription, early 14th-century. ^{1330.} Coffins: In the Harvey vault, under the N. chapel and vestry - thirteen lead coffins with shaped heads and modelled faces of the following members of

the Harvey family - Eliab, 1601; Mary, 1673; Sarah, 1655; Eliab, 1681; Dorothy, 1686; Matthew, first page of honour to William III, 1692; Elizabeth, 1659; "Marey", 1677; Mary, 1664; Elizabeth, 1695; Dorothea, 1691; F.H., 1686, and M.H., 1695.

Panelling: In vestry - loose, remains of pew enclosure including carved pierced panels, moulded rail with turned finials, and panelled door with shaped balusters at the top, 17th-century.

Piscinae: In chancel - with chamfered jambs and head, restored in cement, 15th-century; further W., with chamfered jambs and segmental-pointed head, possibly piscina, 14th or 15th-century, head partly modern. In S. aisle - with double hollow-chamfered jambs and trefoiled ogee head, remains of foiled basin, c.1350, much damaged. Plate: includes a cup of 1561, and a secular bowl of 1630, with repousse ornament and a foiled edge and two handles.

Seating: In N. chapel - tops of two bench-ends with crudely carved foliage finials, late 15th-century, made up with modern work.

Miscellanea: In vestry - three stones carved with faces, probably from the 15th-century tower. In nave - at N.E. corner, funeral helm with the Harvey crest, 17th-century.