

# LINSTEAD

## GENERAL INFORMATION



Linstead is situated on the B1123 which runs from Halesworth to Metfield and Harleston. Linstead is not a nuclear village, the population being widely dispersed over 1656 acres. The population of Linstead, both Magna and Parva, is approximately 126 including children. Although the area of the parishes has not diminished over the years, the population has. In Wilson's 'Imperial Gazetteer of England and Wales (1870-72)', the population of Parva is given as 227 and Magna as 115.

The market town of **Halesworth** is approximately 3.5 miles away. It has a good selection of shops and a regular market on Wednesdays. There are also schools, a library, museum and mainline railway station with train links to London Liverpool Street.

Linstead is close to the many attractions of the East Suffolk **Heritage Coast**, much of which is designated as being an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The main source of work in **Linstead** is agriculture. Some artists and craftsmen work from home, however many of the residents commute to neighbouring towns for employment.

There is an excellent farm and garden machinery shop, a garage and a forge in the village. There are some holiday cottages in the village and also the Oasis Camelid Centre and the Jay Gee Sanctuary for Dogs.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN LINSTEAD

**St Margaret of Antioch, Linstead Parva** was mostly built at the beginning of the 13th century.

It was constructed as a chapel-of-ease, marking the end of the lands of the Cluniac Priory at Mendham.

This is mentioned in the Domesday Book.





Some of the original windows remain but most were replaced in the 16th century, and are surrounded by Tudor brick. The windows were paid for by subscriptions from individual families.



The font is probably late 14th century and is octagonal. One face is not carved, indicating that it was probably placed against the west wall of the church. It was placed on its present base in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The bowl is on a plinth, supported by four lions and it carries the signs of the four Evangelists, interspersed with demi-angels. Will Dowsing visited the church in the 17th century, removing the statues from the niches on the west wall. He removed carvings from the beam-ends and also 'reorganised' the carving on the font.



In the 18th century the church was fitted with box-pews and also with the belfry. The bell, dated 1789, is from the White-chapel bell-foundry.

At the end of the 19th century, the church was completely restored. The present furniture was installed and the porch & vestry were added. A contemporary newspaper cutting reported on the re-dedication.



In the vestry of St Margaret's are photographs of **St. Peter's, Linstead Magna**. This church has now entirely disappeared. Some gravestones have been placed in the churchyard of St. Margaret's. The plate, including a pre-Reformation cup and cover, is in the Cathedral Treasury at Bury St. Edmunds. The Decalogue, together with some of the pews and pew-ends, were brought to St. Margaret's before St Peter's was demolished. The font of St. Peter's, together with its bell, went



to St. Augustine of Hippo, Ipswich, which was being built at that time.

St Peter's was still in use as a parish church at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, but at that time the Magna parish had already combined with its Parva sister. St Peter's then began to be used only occa-

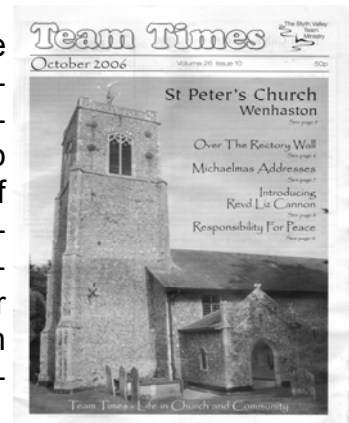
sionally, but it was used especially for baptisms and funerals. This photograph was taken in 1924, shortly before the church fell into disuse and the roof was removed.

**100 Club** - this is a joint fund-raising initiative with St Mary's, Chediston with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the church and monthly prize draws with a first prize of £25, second £15, third £10, and fourth £5.

Details can be obtained from Malcolm Heath, Treasurer Linstead Parochial Church Council (Telephone: 01986 785289)

## TEAM TIMES

Linstead is part of the Blyth Valley Team Ministry. There are 11 parishes in the Team. **Team Times**, which is published monthly, gives details of the church services at Linstead and the other parishes in the team. Most people also find it to be a good general read, with news and details of local events, in addition to having some useful advertisements. The annual subscription is £6-00 (including delivery). If you would like to subscribe, please contact either Malcolm Heath, Treasurer Linstead Parochial Church Council (Telephone: 01986 785289) or Angela Frost, Secretary (Telephone: 01986 785236).



## LINSTEAD VILLAGE HALL



The excellent Village Hall, situated on the B1123 and sporting the Village Sign, is the centre of many village activities, such as the Annual Fete, Harvest Supper and Quiz Nights.

The hall is also used as the local Polling Station and the Chediston and Linstead Parish Council meets there.



## HARVEST SUPPER

The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee is Val Bish, Faircroft, Linstead, the Secretary is Carol Hume, Hill Farm and Treasurer is Pauline Keable, Chiltern Rise (Telephone: 01986 785347)

The Hall may be booked for private functions and the equipment (tables and chairs) may also be hired separately. For more information please contact Pauline Keable.

The **Chediston and Linstead Women's Institute** meets regularly at the Village Hall on the second Tuesday of each month.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- **The local Community Police Officer** is: PC 328 Mark Bryant  
Telephone: Main Central 01473 613500 and ask for Mark Bryant.  
Email: mark.bryant@suffolk.pnn.police.uk.
- **Parish notices** are displayed on the two **notice boards** in the village. These are situated at the Village Hall and on the Bus Shelter at the cross roads near the church.
- **Refuse** is collected weekly on a Tuesday. Green waste and paper are collected on alternate weeks.
- **Mobile Library** (see enclosed details) visits Linstead on alternate Mondays  
10.10 - 10.25am Bridge Farm  
10.40 - 10.50am Catkin Farm
- **Community News** - Copies of this monthly free newspaper can be obtained from Linstead Farm and Garden Machinery.
- **Metfield Stores** - This shop, manned by volunteers, sells a wide variety of goods. .
- **Halesworth Pathfinder Bus** - This is a service which serves the local area, acting a bit like a taxi, but with the fare of a bus. Contact No. 01986 874479
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## **USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

- **Doctors' Surgery: Cutlers Hill Surgery, Halesworth 01986 874618**
- **Dental Surgeries:**  
Angel Link Dental Practice, Halesworth Tel. 01986 873001  
Hooker House Dental Practice, Halesworth Tel. 01986 872113
- **Milk Delivery: Marybelle - 01986 784458**  
Dairy Crest - 01502 572616
- **Newspaper Delivery: D C Patrick - 01986 875229**
- **Linstead Garage: 01986 785225**
- **Linstead Farm and Garden Machinery: 01986 785272**
- **Easitron Ltd. The Forge, Linstead: 01986 785457**

