

A BRIEF GUIDE TO
THE CHURCH OF
SAINT MARGARET of ANTIOCH
LINSTED PARVA



PLEASE DO TAKE A COPY AND LEAVE A DONATION
IN THE OFFERTORY BOX.

St. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH, LINSTEAD PARVA

According to the historian, W.A. Copinger, who was quoting the Domesday Book: *Linstead (or Linstede) was held in King Edward's time by a freeman named Wolfric, with 60 acres of land. There were 6 bordars*, 2 plough-teams in the desmesne, and one belonging to tenants. There was sufficient wood for the support of 30 hogs and two acres of meadow. The stock consisted of 1 rouncy**, 4 cows, 20 hogs, 30 sheep and 20 goats. The whole was valued at 20s. By the time of the Domesday survey, the value had increased to 30s., but a portion of the wood had been felled and then there was only sufficient for 20 hogs. Roger, son of William de Huntingfield, founder of the Priory of Cluniac monks at Mendham, gave the church of St. Margaret of Linstead, to that monastery and half the church of St. Peter's Linstead Magna, to that monastery; and previous to its dissolution, both these impropriations were held by the said Prior and monks.*

* A border was above a serf but below a villain. He was given about 5 acres to farm and feed his family. He also had to give service to the Lord of the Manor.

** A rouncy was a general-purpose horse.

*Below: The church
from the south-west.*

Although the church had been given to Cluniac Priory at Mendham, the manor belonged to the Cistercian abbey at Sibton. It is situated at the extreme south-eastern corner of the Parish in a peninsula, surrounded by Chediston. Large tracts of the parish are closer to the churches at Cratfield, Cookley and Huntingfield, all of which are in different benefices.



The present building was mostly built in the late 12th or early 13th centuries, but it is assumed that it replaced a previous wooden building. The structure is largely of flint rubble. Two of the original windows remain, at the west end and on the north side of the choir, but most were replaced in the 15th and 16th centuries. These are surrounded by Tudor brick. The windows were paid for by subscriptions from individual families. The roof is a simple braced arch structure. It is now covered by tiles but was thatched until (probably) the 18th century.



*Left: The church
from the north-east.*

The font is probably 14th century and is supported by four lions. The bowl carries the signs of the four Evangelists, interspersed with demi-angels.

Will Dowsing visited the church on April 4th 1643. He records that he recommended the removal of:

‘a picture of God the Father and Christ and five more superstitious in the chancel, and the steps to be levelled, which the churchwardens promised to do in twenty days, and a picture of Christ on the outside of the steeple (belfry?), nailed to a cross, and another superstitious one. Crosses on the font.’



One assumes that he was referring to the removal of statues from the niches on the outside of the west wall. Effigies were also removed from the beam-ends and the carving on the font was reorganised.

In the 18th century the church was fitted with box-pews and also with the belfry. There is a picture showing the interior of the church as it was at that time (see overleaf). The bell, dated 1789, is from the Whitechapel bell-foundry. Prior to that it is recorded that there were two bells.

In 1895 the church was completely restored. The present furniture was installed and the porch & vestry were added. A contemporary newspaper cutting reports on the re-dedication.

places.

LINSTEAD PARVA.

RE-OPENING OF ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH.—The Church of St. Margaret was re-opened for Divine service on Thursday, 6th inst., the whole of the building having undergone a thorough renovation. Under the direction of Messrs. Bettle and Olley, architects, of Great Yarmouth, Messrs. Grimwood and Bullen, of Weybread, have carried out the following in a very satisfactory manner:—The roof of the nave, both interior and exterior, has been thoroughly restored, and presents a marked contrast to the old plastered panels and white-washed beams: new benches have been placed on a good block floor, both in the nave and in the chancel, together with a new pulpit and lectern, all in oak; and though last, not least, a new and substantial vestry has been built, the whole of the work costing about £250. The new west door is the gift of Mr. E. Woodyard, of Kelsale, and was made by one of his own workmen. The Right Hon. Lord Huntingfield, who is lay proprietor, has re-tiled the roof of the chancel, and given a new Communion rail. His lordship has also subscribed £15 towards the seats in the chancel. The Hon. the Misses Yanneck have placed tiles in the sacristy. Mr. Arthur Philpot, of Linstead, has presented to the church a very good second-hand harmonium, a most welcome gift. The services of the day commenced with Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. At three p.m. prayers were read by the Vicar. The Rev. C. A. Watkins (vicar of Ubbeston) read the first lesson, and the Rev. V. B. Bomford (curate of Halesworth) read the second lesson, the sermon being preached by the Rev. J. H. Rogers (vicar of Thorpe Hamlet, Norwich), from 1st Peter ii., 5. At seven p.m., prayers were read by the Vicar. The Rev. W. R. Tate (vicar of Walpole) read the lessons, and the Rev. A. B. Upcher preached from Zechariah viii., 21. The services were continued on Sunday, when the sermon was preached by the Rev. W. J. Garrold, (vicar of St. Michael's, Ipswich). All the services were well attended, and the collections satisfactory.

Sections of the pew ends are, however, medieval and there are two rather attractive carvings on the ends of the pews, formerly occupied by the Vicar's and Peoples' churchwardens.





Left: The church with its present interior, dating from 1895.

Right: An etching of the interior of the church by the Revd. Samuel Blois Turner, in 1849. It shows the 17th C box pews and a two-tiered pulpit. The old altar table is now in the vestry.

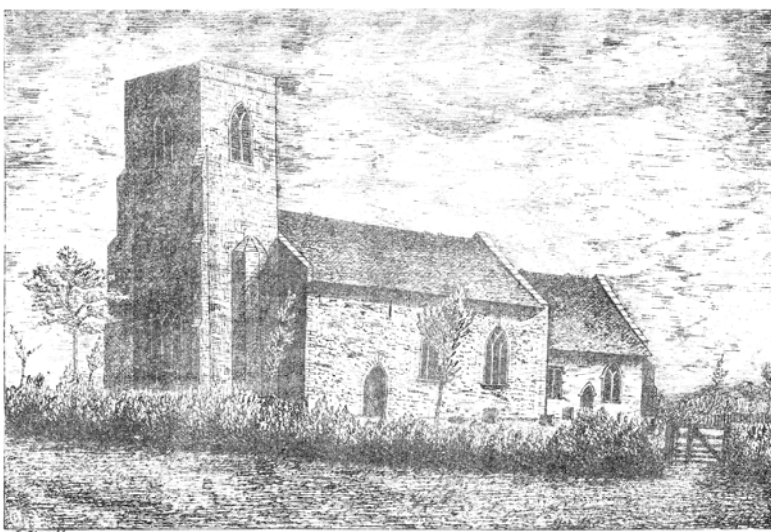


The plate of the two Linsteads, including a pre-Reformation cup and cover, is now on display in the Cathedral Treasury at Bury St. Edmund's.

The East and North windows now have Victorian stained glass. There is a gravestone in the Chancel of 'Dorothy Turner Wife of Thomas Turner M.D. Died Sept 1st 1813 Aged 69'. The North window has a memorial beneath it to 'Mary, Beloved Wife of George Chambers.' The East window was donated by the Revd. William Claro-Collins, in memory of his wife. Other monuments are simple stone or brass memorials. On the north wall, to the Revd. I.J. Taylor, vicar from 1907 to 1924 and to his only son, Maj. E.A.I. Taylor, killed in the Great War. On the south wall there are memorials to May Warne and Freda Clipson, both former organists. In addition there are, hung as pictures, three war memorials. One is the original war office list and another is an embroidered version of the same. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, this is the only embroidered war memorial in existence. The third records the deaths of four German airmen, who died in the closing days of World War 2 and who were, for a short time, interred in Linstead churchyard.

In the vestry are photographs of St. Peter's, Linstead Magna. This has now entirely disappeared. Some gravestones are now in the churchyard of St. Margaret's, most of them rest against the outside of the west end.

The Decalogue, the panels containing the Ten Commandments, on the East wall, came from St. Peters, as did some of the pew-ends.



Left: An etching of St. Peter's Linstead Magna, probably mid 19th C.

The font and bell from St. Peter's can now be seen in the church of St. Augustine of Hippo, in Ipswich.

Thank you for visiting our church and we apologise for the bat-droppings, we really do have bats in our belfry.

LINSTEAD - MAGNA CHURCH
Suffolk.