

# 1. Parish: Aldham

**Meaning:** Ealda's meadow/enclosure or old meadow/enclosure

2. **Hundred:** Cosford

**Deanery:** Sudbury (–1864), Sudbury (Eastern)(1864–84), Hadleigh (1884–)

**Union:** Cosford

**RDC/UDC:** (W Suffolk) Cosford RD –1974, Babergh DC 1974–

## Other Administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1883, 1935, part transferred to Elmsett 1935  
Hadleigh Petty Sessional Division and County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,755 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

### Mixed:

- a. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loam over clay, some calcareous clay soils on sloping ground
- b. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils. Slight risk water erosion.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086 10 acres meadow, wood for 8 pigs, 2 mills, 3 cobs, 18 cattle, 60 pigs, 60 sheep

1500–1640 Thirsk: Wood-pasture region, mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pig-keeping, horse breeding and poultry. Crops mainly barley with some wheat, rye, oats, peas, vetches, hops and occasionally hemp.

1818 Marshall: Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products

1937 Main crops: Wheat, barley, beans

1969 Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

7. **Settlement:**

1973 Small ribbon development along 'The Street' (Elmsett–Hadleigh road). Church isolated adjacent to Hall to SW of main development. Airfield intrudes into parish on western boundary. Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 20, 1801 – 44, 1851 – 61, 1871 – 59, 1901 – 50, 1951 – 55, 1981 – 62

## 8. Communications:

**Road:** To Hadleigh, Whatfield and Elmsett  
1891 Carrier to Ipswich on Saturday

**Rail:** 1891 2 miles Hadleigh station: Bentley–Hadleigh line, opened  
1847, closed for passengers 1932, closed for goods 1965 and  
track taken up.

**Air:** 1973 Airfield situated on western boundary with Whatfield.  
Nothing more known.

## 9. Population:

1086 – 16 recorded  
1327 – 26 taxpayers paid £1. 14s. 9.  
1524 – 18 taxpayers paid £2. 17s. 4d.  
1603 – 100 adults  
1674 – 20 households  
1676 – not recorded  
1801 – 197 inhabitants  
1831 – 318 inhabitants  
1851 – 307 inhabitants  
1871 – 234 inhabitants  
1901 – 238 inhabitants  
1931 – 186 inhabitants  
1951 – 163 inhabitants  
1971 – 147 inhabitants  
1981 – 191 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £8.  
Portion of Prior of Colum (Earls Colne, Essex) £2. 13s. 4d.  
£10. 13s. 4d.

1291 Valued £10. 13s. 4d.  
Portion as above £3. £13. 13s. 4d.

1535 Valued £10. 13s. 4d.

1831 1 curate, stipend £50 p.a. Glebe house unfit for occupation.  
Gross income £290 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of  
Huntingfield with Cookley  
45 acres 2R 18P glebe 1844  
Rectory house built in Elizabethan style 1850: recent  
discoveries put its date to much earlier period  
Tithes commuted for £315. 18s. 6d. p.a. c.1891  
Nett income £190 p.a. 1912

### Patrons:

Mr Tilney 1603, Mr Lennard 1831, T.B. Leonard 1844,  
Sir T. Barrett-Lennard 1912

## 11. Church St Mary (Chancel, modern N, vestry, nave, S porch, round W Tower)

1086	Church + 2 acres land, church + 7 acres
Norman	Lower portion of tower remainder built c.1350
14 <sup>th</sup> cent.	Main structure
1883/4	S wall rebuilt, new chancel arch and two-thirds of tower rebuilt
1889	Restoration

**Note:** Anglo Saxon remains in jamb of S. window in nave  
(believed to be shaft of cross with interlaced ornament)

**Seats:** 37 appropriated, 116 free 1873

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

	Monument stands on Aldham Common marking the spot where Dr Rowland Taylor of Hadleigh was burned for his religious beliefs 1554/5.
1812/1814	2 houses set aside for worship Suggested Chapel house was used as Congregational chapel between 1870's and 1930

**13. Manorial:**

1066	Manor of 5.5 acres held by Wulfwin
1086	Manor of 5.5 acres belonging to Aubrey de Vere
-1462	De Vere family owns (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk. Specifically mentioned in Inquis p.m. of Robert de Vere, 5 <sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford 1296
1462	Became forfeit on execution of Sir John de Vere, 12 <sup>th</sup> Earl Granted to Richard, Duke of Gloucester Returning to the de Vere family c.1539
1580	Philip Tilney owns (linked to Shelley and Sproughton)
1609	Sir Edward Coke owns (linked to Trimley St Mary, Wherstead and Cratfield)
1764	Sir Joshua Vanneck owns (linked to Aldringham, Cookley, Heveningham and Cratfield)
1909	Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard owns

**14. Market/Fairs:**

Receipt from John Corder, Clerk of the market of Aldham for use of market boards (date illegible)

**15. Real property:**

1844	£1,953 rental value
1891	£1,808 rateable value
1912	£1,194 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891	Land sub-divided
1912	Sir T. Barrett-Lennard, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

1891 Rev D. B. Lennard, MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1549 1 parson  
1550–1599 2 carpenters, 1 husbandman, 1 labourer, 2 yeomen  
1600–1649 3 husbandmen, 1 tailor, 7 yeomen  
1650–1699 1 clerk, 6 yeomen, 1 farmer  
1831 53 in agriculture, 11 in retail trade, 9 in domestic service,  
7 others  
1844 Maltster, carpenter, victualler, blacksmith, 7 farmers  
1912 Schoolmistress, 8 farmers, cattle dealer, publican,  
steward to R.C. Turner

**19. Education:**

1818 1 Sunday school, 27 attend  
1833 1 daily school established 1830 (15 attend)  
Dames school 1871  
School Board established 1874. School mistress listed 1891.  
Public Elementary school built 1874 for 45 pupils, average  
attendance 1912 of 38, closed 1930

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £112. 7s.  
1803 £90. 17s. 6d.  
1818 £605. 12s.  
1830 £585  
1832 £702. 3s.  
1834 £365. 16s.

**21. Charities:**

**Goodale's Charity:** 1627 by will of John Goodale, 20s p.a. for  
distributing in bread on St Johns day.  
**Sponer's** Request of Rev John Sponer: £20 for the poor –  
lost through insolvency

**22. Other institutions:**

Almshouses believed sited in Holly Lane.  
Village Hall formed from converted school 1930's/40's. Private dwelling by  
1982

**23. Recreation:**

1844/1891 The Sportsman public house, rebuilt c.1914–1918, closed  
mid 1920's and converted to dwelling house

**24. Personal:**

Dr Rowland Taylor: burned on Aldham Common for his religious beliefs 1554/55. Monument raised on site commemorates the event.

**25. Other information:**

'Talking about Aldham past and present' by Pamela Oldroyd 1982

Village pound, formerly situated in Church Lane, village stocks also believed to have occupied nearby site.

Public water supply introduced 1934 via bore-hole and pump in Aldham Street.

Mains water introduced 1954, pump removed by 1974 and replaced by well cover.

Mains sewer installed 1972

Mains electricity introduced c.1950

Village won Britain in Bloom certificate 1974

'The Bunches' built c.1750, Grade II listed

Aldham Mill renovated and converted to dwelling house 1980

'Aldham Common: The Martyr Stone' in 'Historic Sites of Suffolk' by John Wodderspoon 1841, p.47

Workhouse in existence with 20 inmates 1776