

1. Parish: **Helmingham**

Meaning: The meadow/enclosure of Helm's people

2. **Hundred:** Claydon (–1327), Bosemere and Claydon

Deanery: (–1972), Bosmere (1972–)

Union: Bosmere and Claydon

RDC/UDC: Bosemere and Claydon R.D. (1894–1934), Gipping R.D. (1934–1974), Mid–Suffolk D.C. (1974–)

Other administrative details:

Bosmere and Claydon Petty Sessional Division
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 2,466 acres land, 8 acres water (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a. Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion
b. Some permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse and fine loam over clay.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		13 acres meadow, 3 cobs, 6 cattle, 56 pigs, 64 sheep, wood for 60 pigs, 2 beehives
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:

1958 Helmingham Park occupies majority of central portion of parish, the growth of which probably influenced development.
Small compact settlement on southern edge of the Park, the church is situated separately to the NE also on the Park edge.
Few scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 31, 1801 – 27, 1851 – 56,
1871 – 66, 1901 – 70, 1951 – 69,
1981 – 66

8. Communications:

Road: To Ashbocking, Otley, Framsdon and Gosbeck
1844: Situated at junction of turnpikes from Ipswich and Woodbridge

9. Population:

1086 – 59 recorded
1327 – 25 taxpayers paid £2 11s. 5¼d.
1524 – 47 taxpayers paid £9 2s. 6d.
1603 – 60 adults
1674 – 34 households
1676 – Not recorded
1801 – 235 inhabitants
1831 – 286 inhabitants
1851 – 287 inhabitants
1871 – 290 inhabitants
1901 – 332 inhabitants
1931 – 286 inhabitants
1951 – 210 inhabitants
1971 – 193 inhabitants
1981 – 162 inhabitants

10. Benefice:

1254 Valued £20
1291 Valued £18
Portion of St. Faiths in same 14s.
£18 14s.
1535 Valued £18
Rectory house built 1813
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £474 p.a. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Pettaugh
Modus of £540 p.a. in lieu of tithes 1839
1844 37 acres 33P glebe
1912 Nett value £315 p.a. 37 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: The King (1603–1891), Lord Chancellor (1891–)

11. Church **St. Mary**
(Chancel, nave, S. porch, W. tower)

1086 1 acre belonging to the church
½ church + 3 acres, 4th part of church + 1½ acres free
Land, 4th part of church + free land
12th cent. Doorway to nave
14th cent. Chancel and tower arch, S. doorway
1487/8 Building contract for tower in existence
15th cent. S. porch, main structure
1543 Parapet added to tower
1644 Puritanical Vandals (William Dowsing) destroyed 3
Superstitious pictures, ordered removal of 4 crosses,
9 pictures and Adam and Eve 'to be beaten down'.
1845 Restoration

Seats: 200 (1915)

Note: Lead had been removed from the chancel and the
churchyard was unfenced (1597)

12. Nonconformity etc:

Minister is said to have harboured 2 persons under sentence of
hanging being suspected of being adulterous persons. 1597. He
does not wear the surplice and is said to be a contentious person.

1912 Mission Room recorded

13. Manorial:

1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Anund a free man
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Robert, Count of Mortain
1066 Manor of 80 acres held by Durand, a free man under
patronage of Edric of Laxfield
1086 Manor of 80 acres belonging to bishop of Bayeux
1066 Manor of 40 acres held by Balki under patronage of
Aethlstan
1086 Manor of 40 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux
1066 Manor of 30 acres held by Burghard, a free man
1086 Manor of 30 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux
1066 Manor of 24 acres held by Blackman, a free man under
patronage of Edric and Saxi
1086 Manor of 20 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1066 | Manor of 20 acres held by Leofatan under patronage of Edric |
| 1086 | Manor of 20 acres belonging to Bishop of Bayeux |

Creke's Hall al Helmingham Hall al Cressy's al Joyce's

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 1066 | Manor of 1 carucate of Finn's land held by Thuri a thane of King Edward's |
| 1086 | Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Richard, son of Count Gilbert |
| 1252 | Geoffrey de Creke owns |
| 1315 | Roger de Cressy owns (linked to Cookley) |
| c.1388 | William Joyce owns |
| c.1509 | Lionel Tollemache owns in which family it remains 1909 (linked to numerous manors throughout Suffolk) |

Sub-manors:

Bocking's

- | | |
|------|---|
| | Surmised to have anciently belonged to Nuns of Campsey |
| 1228 | Sir Bartholomew de Creke owns (becoming absorbed into main manor) (linked to Flixton) |

Cadleys

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1548 | Lionel Tollemache owns (absorbed by main manor) |
|------|---|

Bromberry al Raynsbrough al Blomviles al Sulyards

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1343 | John Reynburgh owns |
| 1533 | Thomas Alverds owns (linked to Falkenham and Sutton) |
| 1556 | Lionel Tollemache owns (absorbed by main manor) |

Burchall/Bury Hall/Berryshall Willowes and Sidhall

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 13 th cent. | Priory of Holy Trinity, Ipswich |
| 1640 | Sir Lionel Tollemache died seised (absorbed by main manor) |

14. Markets/Fairs

15. Real property:

1844	£2,920 rental value
1891	£2,749 rateable value
1912	£2,170 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	J. Tollemache, sole owner
1891	Lord Tollemache, sole owner
1912	Trustees of Lord Tollemache, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1524	Lionell Tollemache esq.
1674	Lord Huntingtower has house with 20 hearths
1679	Rt. Hon. Sir Lionel Tolmach
1844	John Tollemache and Rev. E. Bellman MA
1891	Lord Tollemache JP and Hon. S. Tollemache JP
1912	Lady Mary Tollemache

18. Occupations:

1550–1549	1 priest, 1 tanner, 1 carpenter
1550–1599	2 yeomen
1600–1649	1 husbandman, 8 yeomen
1650–1699	2 spinsters, 3 husbandmen, 8 yeomen, 1 mercer, 1 cooper
1831	59 in agriculture, 7 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 22 in domestic service, 6 others
1844	Shoemaker, carpenter, wheelwright, gamekeeper, blacksmith, 12 farmers
1912	Sub-postmaster, teacher, 9 farmers, Helmingham Brick Works blacksmith, land steward, farm bailiff, wheelwright

19. Education:

1818	1 day school (15 attend)
1833	1 daily school (20 attend), 1 Sunday school established 1826 (46 attend)
	National school built 1833, 175 attend 1891, average Attendance 1912 154

20. Poor relief:

1776	£87 2s. 6d.
1803	£108 16s. 1½d.
1818	£334 11s.
1830	£414 13s.
1832	£450 19s.

1834 £389 13s.

21. Charities:

Church Lands:

Land and property (approx. 12 acres) c.1761 let at £12 p.a. 1791 to the Earls of Dysart. Rents to be applied to church repairs

Dole:

c.1786 10s. p.a. applied to purchase of bread for the poor

Goslings Gift:

1748 by will of James Gosling: 10s. p.a. to provide bread for the poor

22. Other institutions:

23. Recreation:

24. Personal:

Tollemache family: Lionell Tollemache, High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk 1512. His grandson Lionel was High Sheriff of Suffolk 1591.
His son Lionel was created baronet 1611
'The Tollemaches of Helmingham'. PSIA Vol. XII, p.100.

25. Other information:

Ancient British cemetery located in grounds of rectory (no dates)
Helmingham Hall: 16th cent. building surrounded by moat, crossed by 2 drawbridges.
Original Creke Hall built 12th cent.
4 Periods of building have been identified since then (rebuilding – c.1500, 1750, 1800 and 1841) with restoration of 1952. The rebuilding was undertaken by the Tollemache family.
Main gateway survives from original Tudor building. Western gatehouse destroyed 1840.
Park consists of 357 acres 1844, stocked with deer.
Queen Elizabeths Lute: tradition says she used this during a visit to the hall 1580 however this has no factual foundation. The lute remains preserved under glass.
'Helmingham Hall: At the close of 15th cent.' PSIA Vol. XII, p.113.
John Nash drawings of Helmingham were exhibited at the Royal Academy 1800.
Photographs of the Tollemache monument 1615. 'The History of Suffolk',

by D. Dymond and P. Northeast, plate 20.
Report on Roman cemenary by Rev. G. Cardew. Proceedings of Society of
Antiquities 1861, p. 420.
'Queen Elizabeth at Helmingham', by J.A.C. Vincent 1900. Gives evidence
against the Queen ever being a guest at Helmingham Hall.
Typescript of Parish Registers for Helmingham 1559–1813.