

# 1. Parish: Leavenheath (formerly part of Stoke-by-Nayland)

**Meaning:** Leowine's Heath

2. **Hundred:** Babergh

**Deanery:** Sudbury (1863–1864), Sudbury (Western) 1864–1884, Hadleigh (1914–)

**Union:** Cosford

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

## Other administrative details:

Chapelry in Stoke by Nayland

Separate civil parish status 1952 (includes part of Assington, Nayland with Wiston and Polstead)

Separate ecclesiastical parish status 1863 (includes Assington, Wissington and Polstead)

Boxford Petty Sessional Division

Sudbury County Court

3. **Area:**

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a. Deep fine loam over clay and clay soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Calcareous subsoils in places
  - b. Coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flinty and in places over gravel. Slight risk of soil erosion.
  - c. Clay soils, in places calcareous, variety affected by groundwater

5. **Types of farming:**

- |           |             |   |
|-----------|-------------|---|
| 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, oats  |
| 1969      | Trist:      | More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet  |

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1953 Small compact development near Methodist chapel. Church appears isolated.  
Secondary development at Harrow Street. Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1981 – 242

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** To Stoke by Nayland, Assington, Nayland and Boxford

**Rail:** 1891: 4½ miles Bures station: Sudbury–Marks Tey line, opened 1849, closed for goods 1964, closed for passengers 1967

**9. Population:**

1951 – 329 inhabitants

1971 – 435 inhabitants

1981 – 723 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Vicarage**

1912: Valued at £80 p.a. 2 acres of glebe with residence

**Patrons:** Vicar of Stoke by Nayland (1873), Crown (1912)

**11. Church: St Matthew**

(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, N.porch, W. tower and turret)

1835 Church built,

Enlarged 1882

Seats: 200 (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc.:**

Primitive Methodist chapel 1908

**13. Manorial:**

**14. Markets/Fairs:**

**15. Real property:**

**Not recorded**

**16. Land ownership:**

1891 Sir J.T. Rowley, Assington Estate and others, principal owners

1912 Sir Joshua Thellusson Rowley, principal owner

**17. Resident gentry:**

**18. Occupations:**

1912 Sub-postmistress, teacher, 9 farmers, 2 publicans, miller,  
2 shopkeepers, thatchers, baker

**19. Education:**

National school built 1855, rebuilt 1874 for 78 pupils  
Average attendance 1912 51

**20. Poor relief:**

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

Village Hall built 1927  
New village hall opened 1984

**23. Recreation:**

1891 3 public houses  
1912 2 public houses  
Young Wives Club, Women's Institute, Art Club 20<sup>th</sup>  
cent.

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Windmill demolished 1925.

Art Gallery established in converted grain store 1972.