

# 1. Parish: Capel St. Mary

**Meaning:** Chapel of St. Mary (Ekwall)

2. **Hundred:** Samford

**Deanery:** Samford

**Union:** Samford

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Samford RD ( -1974), Babergh D.C. (1974- )

Other administrative details:

Abolished ecclesiastically (1786) to create Capel St. Mary with Little Wenham

Samford Petty Sessional Division  
Ipswich County Court District

3. **Area:** 1,917 acres (1912)

4. **Soils:**

- Mixed:**
- a) Deep well drained fine loam, coarse loam and sandy soils, locally flint and in places over gravel. Slight risk water erosion
  - b) Deep often stoneless coarse loam. Some slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged coarse and fine loam over clay

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		17 acres meadow, woodland for 10 pigs, 1 cob, 6 sheep, 1 mill
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region where sheep are main fertilizing agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop. Also has similarities with wood-pasture region with pasture, meadow, dairying and some pig-keeping.
1818	Marshall:	Wide variations of crop and management techniques including summer fallow in preparation for corn and rotation of turnip, barley, clover, wheat on lighter lands.
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, oats
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

6. **Enclosure:**

**7. Settlement:**

1953 Small but well spaced development along road to Wenham Magna. Church situated in fairly central position. Line of dismantled railway crosses northern sector of parish from NW-E.  
Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 55, 1801 – 51, 1851 – 141, 1871 – 147, 1901 – 118, 1951 – 188, 1981 – 1,032

**8. Communications:**

Road: Line of Roman Road. Main Ipswich – Colchester Road.  
Minor roads to Gt. Wenham and Bentley

1844 Turnpike – 1 mile south of village

1891 Carrier passes through to Ipswich on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 Railway station. Bentley – Hadleigh line, opened (1847), closed for passengers (1932), closed for goods (1965)

Platform and base of station still remain

**9. Population:**

1086 — 25 recorded  
1327 — 21 taxpayers paid £2. 16s. 8d.  
1524 — 36 taxpayers paid £3. 18s.  
1603 — 143 adults  
1674 — 55 households  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — 401 inhabitants  
1831 — 628 inhabitants  
1851 — 649 inhabitants  
1871 — 593 inhabitants  
1901 — 526 inhabitants  
1931 — 504 inhabitants  
1951 — 582 inhabitants  
1971 — 1,488 inhabitants  
1981 — 3,356 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory**

1254 Valued £10

1291 Valued £10

1535 Valued £13. 8s. 4d.

Annexed to Little Wenham (1787)

1831 Glebe house. Gross income £694 p.a.

Valued £682 (1835)

22 acres glebe. Tithes commuted for £528 p.a. (1838)

Rectory enlarged (1883)

1912 Joint nett income £500 + 32 acres glebe and residence

Patrons: Anne Appleton (1603), J. Tweed (1831), Rev. J. Tweed (1844), Rev. A.C. Johnson (1891)

**11. Church** St. Mary  
(Chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, W. tower – formerly with spire)

1086 4<sup>th</sup> part church + 6 acres  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. Main structure including tower and porch  
1597 Glass of the church windows are decayed  
1818 Spire removed  
1868/69 Restoration

**Seats:** 400 (1831)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1597 1 person excommunicated for having two wives  
3 persons excommunicated for not attending church  
New Wesleyan chapel built (1883), old chapel originally built by Independents (no dates)

**13. Manorial:**

1066 Manor of 50 acres held by Wulfstan, a free man of Edeva's  
1086 Manor of 50 acres belonging to Count Alan and held by Wulfstan  
1066 Manor of 60 acres held by Godwin, a free man  
1086 Manor of 60 acres belonging to the Bishop of Bayeux  
1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Swein Swart  
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert of Stratford  
1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Brictsi, a free man  
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Roger of Stratford

**Boitwell Hall/Boyton Hall with Groats/Grot's  
Denny's and Helhouse Lands al Beames**

13<sup>th</sup> cent. Jeffrey de Capell owns held of the Honor of Heninham  
1353 Sir John Braham owns  
1360 Linked to Somerton, Preston, Lavenham, Cockfield, Ramsholt, East Bergholt, Copdock and Tattingstone (John de Vere, Earl of Oxford)  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. Linked to Levington, Nacton, Bentley, Holbrook and Holton St. Mary (John Falstolfe)  
16<sup>th</sup> cent. Jointly owned by Thomas Woolward/John Tarver  
This line is disputed and Davy gives

1316 William FitzRalph  
1388 Sir William Sutton  
1432 Sir John Braham  
1548 Master of Queens College, Cambridge  
Whichever line is correct in 1910 the manor was vested in Queens  
College, Cambridge

**Sub-Manors:**

**Churchford Hall**

1066 Manor of 1 carucate held by Scalpi, a thane of Harold's  
1086 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to Robert Gernon and held  
by William de Alno  
Circa 13/14<sup>th</sup> Ralph de Pebemarsch owns  
1417 Possible annexation to main manor (John FitzRalph)  
Circa 1476 Linked to Lt. Waldingfield, Stoke by Nayland, Polstead,  
Gedding, Rattlesden and Gt. Finborough (Sir Robert  
Chamberlain)  
1581 Thomas Appleton owns  
1686 Bezaliel Sherman owns  
Circa 1762 Everett family owns  
1845 Churchford Hall estate contained 231 acres land  
1855 Linked to Wenham Parva (J. Ansell)  
1910 Linked to Wenham Parva (C.J. Grimwade)

**Thorney**

1553 Linked to Stowmarket, Copdock, Hintlesham and Bentley  
(Lionel Telmarsh died seised)

**Castel's**

15/16<sup>th</sup> cent. Annexed to Churchford Hall, possible absorption by main  
manor (Sir Robert Chamberlain)

**Rembrow**

Appears in same Lordship as Thorney

**14. Markets/Fairs**

**15. Real property:**

1844 £2,896 rental value  
1891 £2,409 rateable value  
1912 £2,325 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844-1912 Land sub-divided, soil mostly freehold

**17. Resident gentry:**

1844 Rev. J. Tweed MA

**18. Occupations:**

1500-1699 Non recorded

1831 134 in agriculture, 31 in retail trade, 2 professionals, 1 labourer, 22 in domestic service

1844 Wheelwright, registrar, 2 shoemakers, bricklayer, victualler, 2 shopkeepers, gardener/seedsman, beerhouse keeper/shopkeeper. Blacksmith, tailor, butcher, saddler, thatcher, 11 farmers

1912 Sub-postmaster, police officer, schoolmaster/mistress, station master, relieving officer, 8 farmers, butcher, publican, carrier, 2 grocers, asst. overseer, 2 beer retailers, miller, grocer/drapery, baker, bootmaker, builder, blacksmith, refreshment room owner, baker, harness maker, seed grower, wheelwright

**19. Education:**

1818 1 unendowed school held on Saturday and Sunday (100 attend)

1833 1 daily school (20 attend), 1 Sunday school (90 attend)  
Parochial school built (1854/55) near site of old one, enlarged (1874), average attendance (1912) 120.  
Old school struck by lightning (1854) and 3 children killed

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £93. 10s. 4d. spent on poor relief

1803 £222. 8s. spent on poor relief

1818 £347. 9s. spent on poor relief

1830 £269. 1s. spent on poor relief

1832 £283. 5s. spent on poor relief

1834 £207 spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

**22. Other institutions:**

1803 Friendly Society (46 members)

Village Club and Reading Room established (1887)

1912 Police Officer listed

**23. Recreation:**

1844-1912 THE WHITE HORSE public house  
1844 1 beerhouse  
1891/1912 2 beer retailers  
1912 Refreshment rooms

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest (1843/44)  
Village sign erected (1981)

**Archaeological Sites**

Rom. Villa/pottery production site (CRN 18)  
Stray finds: B.A. Stone macehead (CRN 16)  
Pottery (CRN 17)  
Med. Bronze purse mount  
Pottery (CRN 2124)  
Horseshoe (CRN 5225)  
Coin (CRN 5126)  
Rom. Pottery, bone, coins (CRN 5109)  
Coins (CRN 5110, 5123)  
Kiln waste (CRN 5111)  
Cremation (CRN 5112)  
Tile (CRN tile (CRN 5121)  
Stone marble mortar (CRN 5122)  
Neo. Flint axe (CRN 5114, 5120)  
Scatter finds: Rom. Cemetery (CRN 5105)  
Settlement area (CRN 5106)  
Pottery (CRN 5107, 5108, 5113)