

# **1. Parish: South Elmham All Saints and St Nicholas**

**Meaning:** Village where elms grew

**2. Hundred:** Wangford

**Deanery:** South Elmham ( -1972), Beccles and South Elmham (1972- )

**Union:** Wangford

**RDC/UDC:** (E. Suffolk) Wangford RD (1894-1935), Wainford RD (1934-1974), Waveney DC (1974- )

## **Other administrative details:**

Abolished as civil and ecclesiastical parish to create All Saints and St. Nicholas (formerly separate civil parishes of South Elmham All Saints and South Elmham St. Nicholas) (1737)  
Ecclesiastical boundary change (1931)  
Bungay Petty Sessional Division  
Harleston County Court District

**3. Area:** 1,641 acres (1912)

**4. Soils:**

Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion.

**5. Types of farming:**

1086	South Elmham:	Wood for 80 pigs, 30 pigs, 1 mill. A community of individualists who depend hardly at all on their neighbours in their day to day farming activities.
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Wood-pasture region. Mainly pasture, meadow, engaged in rearing and dairying with some pigs 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, peas, beans.
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.

## 6. Enclosure:

## 7. Settlement:

1961 Ribbon type development well scattered along South Elmham St Margaret to Rumburgh road. Some concentration around All Saints Common. Church separate from main community being equidistant between All Saints and St. Nicholas  
Scattered farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 19, 1801 – 23, 1851 – 51, 1871 – 43, 1901 – 51 (includes St. Nicholas), 1951 – 37 (joint), 1981 – 45 (joint)

St. Nicholas: Development around site of demolished church and along link road between South Elmham Sandcroft and St. James to the SW and road between St. Margarets and All Saints road with link road.  
Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 11, 1801 – 13, 1851- 20, 1871 -18

## 8. Communications:

**Road:** Roads to South Elmham St. James and South Elmham St. Michael.  
Roads unsafe for traveling and practically impassable for several months of the year (18<sup>th</sup> cent.)

**Rail:** 1891 5 miles Bungay station: Tivetshall – Lowestoft line, opened (1860), closed (1964).

## 9. Population:

1086 — South Elmham: 119 recorded  
1327 — South Elmham: 133 taxpayers paid £12. 15s. 4d.  
1524 — 18 taxpayers paid £5. 2s. 6d. (All Saints)  
15 taxpayers paid £3. 3s. 10d. (St. Nicholas)  
1603 — 112 adults (includes St. Nicholas)  
1674 — 21 households (includes St. Nicholas)  
1676 — Not recorded  
1801 — All Saints: 192 inhabitants

St. Nicholas: 93 inhabitants  
 1831 — All Saints: 239 inhabitants  
           St. Nicholas: 101 inhabitants  
 1851 — All Saints: 232 inhabitants  
           St Nicholas: 94 inhabitants  
 1871 — 270 inhabitants  
 1901 — 233 inhabitants  
 1931 — 203 inhabitants  
 1951 — 174 inhabitants  
 1971 — 145 inhabitants  
 1981 — 116 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (All Saints)**

1254           Not recorded  
 1291           Valued £8.  
 1535           Valued £6.  
 1737           Consolidated with St. Nicholas  
 1831           Glebe house. Gross income £270 p.a. Incumbent also  
                  holds Perpetual Curacy of Redlingfield  
                  32 acres joint glebe. Yearly rent charge of £274 in lieu of  
                  tithes (1855)  
 1912           Joint nett value £210. 93 acres glebe and residence.

**Patrons:**   Bishop of Norwich (1309/1534), Duke of Suffolk (1538), North  
                  family (1554/1593), W. Lisle (1661/63), Sir W. Godbold (1683),  
                  John Taxburgh (1705), B. Conyers (1706), Dr. Ellys (1737),  
                  Grace Britten (1743), Alexander Adair (1790/1831), Sir F.E.S.  
                  Adair (1912)

**Rectory (St Nicholas)**

1086           Taxed 9 marks  
 1291           Valued £6  
 1362           Consolidated with South Elmham St. Margaret  
 1525           Valued £8  
 1737           Consolidated with South Elmham All Saints

**Patrons:**   The Bishop of Norwich (1308/1524), Lord North (1557)

**11. Church All Saints**  
 (Chancel, nave, S. aisle, S. porch, W. tower)

11<sup>th</sup> cent.   Tower (much restored) and S. doorway  
 circa 1250   S. aisle  
 15<sup>th</sup> cent.   Porch  
 1870        Restoration. Old porch with upper chamber replaced  
               (1871)  
 1980's      Church closed and redundant

**Seats:** 150 (1915)

### **St. Nicholas**

17<sup>th</sup> cent.      Fell into decay and pulled down  
Stone cross now marks site

#### **11a. Other religious information:**

‘South Elmham Deanery’ by V.B. Redstone PSIA Vol. XIV p. 323

### **Secular College**

Theory is that the group of churches within the South Elmhams may have formed a religious centre

#### **12. Nonconformity etc:**

### **All Saints**

1841              Wesleyan chapel built

#### **13. Manorial:**

### **South Elmham:**

Manor extended over 9 parishes called the liberty, manor or township of South Elmham.

Circa 680AD Granted to Felix the Burgundian by Sigebert, King of the East Angles.

1086              Manor of 40 acres belonging to Godric the Steward under patronage of Ralph the Constable.

1086              Manor of 40 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford.

1086              Manor of 40 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Alwin.

1086              Manor of 60 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Bondi.

1086              Manor of 30 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford, in the hands of a freeman under patronage of Stigand.

1086              Manor of 30 acres belonging to the Bishop of Thetford in the hands of Alwy under patronage of Edric of Laxfield.

1101              See of Norwich owns.

1535              Seized by the Crown and granted to Sir Edward North.

1613              Tasburgh family owns (linked to Flixton).

1787              Adair family owns (linked to Cratfield).

### **Sub-Manors:**

### **New Hall**

15<sup>th</sup> cent. Robert Bateman of Flixton owns.  
 1583 Tasburgh family owns (absorbed by main manor).

### **Kings Hall**

1558 Alice Wentworth owns.  
 1599 Berdwell family owns.

## **14. Markets/Fairs**

## **15. Real property:**

Combined:

1844 £1,548 rental value  
 1891 £1,901 rateable value  
 1912 £1,089 rateable value

## **16. Land ownership:**

1844/1912 Land sub-divided

## **17. Resident gentry:**

## **18. Occupations:**

South Elmham Manor: 350,000 Breketylls (bricks) were being made and sent to Hoxne (1464/65), 'Suffolk Landscape' by N. Scarfe p.182.

1550–1599	All Saints:	2 yeomen, 2 husbandmen
	St. Nicholas:	5 yeomen
	South Elmham:	4 yeomen, 6 husbandmen, 1 weaver, 1 wheelwright, 2 labourers.
1600-1699	South Elmham:	22 yeomen, 1 tailor, 2 husbandmen, 1 wheelwright, 1 butcher, 1 linen weaver, 1 clerk.
1831	All Saints:	40 in agriculture, 12 retail trade, 1 professional, 1 in labouring, 14 in domestic service, 2 others
	St. Nicholas:	26 in agriculture, 5 in retail trade, 5 in domestic service
1844	All Saints:	1 wheelwright, 1 victualler, 1 grocer/draper, 1 miller/shopkeeper, 11 farmers
	St. Nicholas:	1 blacksmith, 1 bricklayer, 5 farmers
1912	Combined:	1 sub-postmaster, 3 schoolteachers, 12 farmers, 1 publican, 1 blacksmith, 1 cattle dealer, 1 farm bailiff, 1 shopkeeper/tailor, 1 shopkeeper

**19. Education:**

1818	Day school supported by Rev. E. Tysson (40 attend)
1833	1 fee paying school (36 attend) Schoolroom built (1872), children attend from South Elmham All Saints, St. Margarets, St. Peters and St. Nicholas, enlarged (1899) average attendance (1912) 67
1874	Private day school and boarding school

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£52. 17s. 5d.	spent on poor relief
1803	£110. 14s. 5 ½ d.	spent on poor relief
1818	£593. 19s.	spent on poor relief
1830	£590. 13s.	spent on poor relief
1832	£702. 16s.	spent on poor relief
1834	£622. 16s.	spent on poor relief

**21. Charities:**

<b><u>Town Estate:</u></b>	1828	Yearly sums from rents of £2. 10s. Land and property let at £9. 11s. 6d. p.a.- rents used for church repairs
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**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

All Saints:	1844	The White Lion public house
	1885	The Lion public house
	1937	The Red Lion public house

**24. Personal:**

‘The Tasburghs of South Elmham: The Rise and Fall of a Suffolk Gentry Family’ by N. Evans. PSIA Vol.34 p.269.

**25. Other information:**

‘Present State of Elmham Controversy’ by F.S Stevenson. PSIA Vol. III p.110.

‘On the site of the Bishopric of Elmham’. PSIA Vol. IV p.7.

Bishop of Norwich had palace in the area, suggested that moated ruins in St. Margarets parish could be remains of this.

Elmham Hall much decayed (1651).

**Archaeological Sites**

Med. moated sites (CRN 724, 725, 878, 879, 880, 4557)  
Church of All Saints (CRN 882)

Site of Church of St. Nicholas (CRN 726)  
PMed. windmill mound (CRN 4573)  
Med. greens (CRN 5077, 5078)

Stray finds: I.A. pottery (CRN 723)

Scatter finds: PMed. pottery (CRN 7650, 4552, 4555, 4559, 4560,  
4576, 4580, 4587, 4591, 4593, 4594)  
Med. pottery (CRN 727, 1624, 1958, 4554, 4559, 4561-65  
4569, 4571, 4572, 4574, 4575, 4577, 4578, 4579, 4581-3  
4585, 4586, 4590, 4590, 4595, 4597, 4599)  
Burnt flint patch (CRN 883, 884, 4556, 4568, 4626-4629)  
Rom. pottery (CRN 1956, 1959, 4553, 4566, 4567, 4570  
4584, 4589, 4596, 4598)  
Sax. pottery (CRN 1957)  
I.A. pottery (CRN 4588)