

# 1. Parish: Bradfield St George

**Meaning:** The wide field (St George probably relates to the church)

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

**Deanery:** Thedwastre (–1884), Horningsheath (1884–1914),  
Horringer (1914–1972), Lavenham (1972–)

**Union:** Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)

**RDC/UDC:** Thingoe RD (–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1884  
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division  
Bury St Edmunds County Court district

3. **Area:** 1,968 acres fertile soil and woodland (1912)

4. **Soils:** Fine loam over clay with slowly permeable subsoils,  
slight seasonal waterlogging. Some calcareous/non-  
calcareous slowly permeable clay soils

## 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 + 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, oats, sugar beet, barley, turnips

1969: Trist: More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet

## 6. Enclosure:

1854 52 acres enclosed under General Acts, 1849

## 7. Settlement:

1978 No central point of development. Settlement appears focused  
At 6 specific points: a. Bradfield Green b. The Church  
c. Hollybush Corner d. Maypole Green e. Cargate  
f. Smallwood Green  
Scattered farms

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 35, 1801 – 55, 1851 – 105, 1871 – 108,  
1901 – 96, 1951 – 105, 1981 – 151

## 8. Communications:

**Roads:** Line of Roman road crosses parish N–S  
To Lt. Whelnetham, Bradfield St. Clare and Gedding  
1912 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

**Rail:** 1891 1 mile from Whelnetham Station. Opened 1865, closed  
Passengers 1961, closed goods 1965

## 9. Population:

1086 – 76 (includes Bradfield Combust and Bradfield St Clare) recorded  
1327 – 22 taxpayers paid £1 13s. 4d.  
1524 – 37 taxpayers paid £6 6s. 1d.  
1603 – 159 adults  
1674 – 57 households  
1676 – 94 adults  
1801 – 354 inhabitants  
1831 – 489 inhabitants  
1851 – 486 inhabitants  
1871 – 493 inhabitants  
1901 – 417 inhabitants  
1931 – 345 inhabitants  
1951 – 360 inhabitants  
1971 – 340 inhabitants  
1981 – 407 inhabitants

## 10. Benefice: Rectory (United with Rushbrooke)

1254 Valued £8  
1291 Value £10 13s. 4d. (possibly includes Combust)  
1535 Valued £11 7s. 3½d.  
1831 Glebe house. Incumbent also holds Rectory of Rougham  
Valued £550 p.a. 1835  
Tithes commuted for £430 p.a. + £7 to Rector of St Clare 1843  
1887 12 acres 2R 32P glebe. Gross rent £14 2s. 6d. p.a.  
1891 Good rectory house, enlarged 1854, 14 acres glebe  
1912 Value £217 p.a. Parish room connected with Rectory

**Patrons:** Sir Robert Jermyn (1603), Marquis of Bristol (1831)

## 11. Church: St George (Chancel, nave, N aisle, S porch, W tower)

1086 Church + 10½ acres free land as alms  
12<sup>th</sup> cent. Chancel + 14<sup>th</sup> cent. insertions  
14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> cent. Nave, aisle, tower and porch  
1496 Bequest for building of a new steeple  
16<sup>th</sup> cent. Nave roof  
Victorian reredos of the Nativity  
1891 Hour glass still stands by pulpit

**Note:** Church situated on elevated site and it is believed 16 churches

can be seen from the steeple (Directories 1844/1891)

**Seats:** 240 free (1874)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1485 Templars tenement listed  
1597 Rector does not wear the surplice nor make sign of cross at Baptisms nor read the Injunctions  
1676 2 nonconformists  
1834 House set aside for worship  
New chapel listed – Baptist chapel built 1835  
1844 Baptist chapel, seats 250. Demolished 1979. Possibly built of locally made brick

**13. Manorial:**

**St George/Monks Bradfield**

1066/1086 Manor of Bradfield belonging to Abbot of St Edmunds (3 carucates, valued £8)  
Abbot owns by grant of Earl Ulfkettel and Bishop Alfric  
1540 Linked to Gt Waldingfield, Preston, Herringswell, Bradfield Combust, Rougham and Rushbrooke (Sir Thomas Jermyn)  
Becoming absorbed by St Clare and under Davers family, Annexed to Rushbrooke

**14. Market/Fair:**

**15. Real Property:**

1844 £2,110 rental value  
1891 £2,260 rateable value  
1912 £1,634 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844–1912 Land always sub-divided

**17. Resident gentry:**

1844 Rev Robert Davers  
1891 Rev Canon G.F. Turner, JP

**18. Occupations:**

1469 Rector  
1491 Tailor  
1550–1599 1 yeoman, 5 husbandmen  
1600–1649 1 cordwainer, 19 yeomen, 2 wheelwrights, 2 husbandmen, 1 linen weaver, 1 clerk, 1 maid, 2 spinsters, 1 blacksmith, 1 tailor, 2 carpenters  
1650–1699 21 yeomen, 1 rector, 1 wheelwright, 1 clerk, 1 spinster

- 1844 Butcher, 2 shopkeepers, shoemaker, 2 woodmen, wheelwright/  
woodman, 2 blacksmiths, tailor, 8 farmers, auctioneer/land  
agent, maltster/corn miller
- 1885 Brickworks situated at Dairy Farm
- 1912 Schoolmaster, sub-postmaster, rate collector, 2 shopkeepers,  
miller, 7 farmers, publican, carrier, 2 beer retailers, cow  
keepers, registrar, wheelwright

**19. Education:**

- 1833 1 daily school (30 attend)
- 1844 Annuity of £2 paid for schooling of 4 poor children
- 1891 National school, average attendance – 39  
4 children sent free to Rougham school
- 1912 Public Elementary school, average attendance – 88

**20. Poor relief:**

- 1776 £160 2s. 6d.
- 1803 £243 0s. 3½d.
- 1818 £305 11s.
- 1830 £454 8s.
- 1832 £506 3s.
- 1834 £326 13s.

**21. Charities:**

**Thomas Sparks's Charity for Education**

- 1721 4 poor children sent to school on Bradfield Green by will of  
Thomas Sparks

**22. Other institutions:**

- 1912 Parish room connected with Rectory

**23. Recreation:**

- The One Bell public house c.1861 (known locally as the  
Louse and Rag) at Small wood Green. Destroyed by fire 1912
- 1891 The Fox and Hounds and The White Horse public houses  
1 beerhouse
- 1912 The White Horse public house (closed c.1935)  
2 beer retailers  
Football team 1949–50

**24. Personal:**

- Samuel Crossman: 17<sup>th</sup> cent., born in village, son of Rector. Ordained 1665  
as curate of St Gregory and St Peter, Sudbury.  
Composer of 'Jerusalem on High'
- Sir Angus Wilson 20<sup>th</sup> cent., author, resident since 1965

## **25. Other information:**

'A History of Bradfield St George', Parts 1 and 2, by L.A. & D.W. Aves 1978.

Great Green: 30 acres 2R 1P (tithe map 1843) belonging to Bradfield Town, reduced at enclosure to 1 acre 2R 1851.

Derelict smock mill, in existence 1844.

Maps of 19<sup>th</sup> cent. indicate 2 mills.

Bradfield St George Hall: demolished 1850s. Renowned as spectral building which has appeared to certain people at varying times. Foundations remain S of Hall Farm.

1 case of incendiarism due to agrarian unrest 1844.

Piped water was connected to the village 1951.

Village hall opened 1955.

Yeoman's Acre: hall house c.1400. Restored and reconstructed Roman road found 1953.

Forge re-opened 1981.