

## 1. Parish: Brockley

- Meaning:** On the brook
2. **Hundred:** Thingoe
- Deanery:** Thingoe (–1884), Horringer (Horningsheath) (1884–1972)  
Thingoe (1972–)
- Union:** Thingoe (1836–1907), Bury St Edmunds (1907–1930)
- RDC/UDC:** (W Suffolk) Thingoe RD (1894–1974), St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

### Other administrative details:

Bury St Edmunds County Court District  
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division

3. **Area:** 1,538 acres (1912)
4. **Soils:** Slowly permeable calcareous/non calcareous clay soils, slight risk water erosion.

### 5. Types of farming:

|           |             |  |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| 1086      |             | 7½ acres meadow, wood for 24 pigs  |
| 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. |
| 1660      | Blome:      | ‘being clay ground husbanded chiefly for the dairy’ and ‘fielding abounding with excellent corn of all sorts.’   |
| 1818      | Marshall:   | Course of crops varies usually including summer fallow as preparation for corn products.   |
| 1937      | Main Crops: | Wheat, barley, beans, roots, peas.   |
| 1969      | Trist:      | More intensive cereal growing and sugar beet.  |

### 6. Enclosure:

1851 34 acres enclosed under General Acts (1845)

**7. Settlement:**

1958 Small scattered development along road to Whepstead. Church and Hall situated separately. Farms situated close together around present parish centre.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 18, 1801 – 33, 1851 – 71, 1871 – 80, 1901 – 60, 1951 – 60, 1981 – 97

**8. Communications:**

**Roads:** To Whepstead and Hartest

1839 Carrier from Bury St Edmunds on Monday, Wednesday  
And Saturday

1844 Carrier to Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

**9. Population:**

1086 – 23 recorded

1327 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 13s 3d.

1524 – 21 taxpayers paid £1 16s 2d.

1603 – 115 adults

1674 – 44 households

1676 – 103 adults

1801 – 253 inhabitants

1831 – 319 inhabitants

1851 – 378 inhabitants

1871 – 347 inhabitants

1901 – 243 inhabitants

1931 – 197 inhabitants

1951 – 202 inhabitants

1971 – 190 inhabitants

1981 – 282 inhabitants

**10. Benefice:**

**Rectory**

1254 Valued £13 6s. 8d.

1291 Valued £10 13s. 4d.

1535 Valued £10 4s. 2d.

1674 Parsonage has 3 hearths, burned down 1841, new residence built 1843/44, enlarged 1847

1831 Glebe house unfit for occupation. Gross income £343 p.a. Valued £458. £462 awarded as yearly rental in lieu of tithes. 26 acres glebe 1855

1912 Nett value £230. 24 acres glebe and residence

**11. Church:** **St Andrews**  
(Chancel, nave, S Porch, W Tower)

1086 Church + 6 acres free land  
c.1300 Nave  
14<sup>th</sup> cent. S door  
15<sup>th</sup> cent. Wooden south porch, 3 bells  
1866–1871 Restoration including re-roofing

**Seats:** 30 appropriated, 120 free (1873)

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

1603 1 male Catholic  
Baptist Chapel 1834 seats 200

**13. Manorial:**

**Brockley Hall**

1167 Peter de Brockley held 1 carucate of the Abbot of St Edmund  
1253 John Algar owns  
1342 Sir Alexander de Walsham owns  
1384 Strange family owns  
c.1435 Thomas Foderingey owns  
1534 Robert Drury died seised  
1617 Sir Edward Cecil owns  
1660 John Gipps owns  
1709 Richard Philips owns  
c.1747 George Thomas owns  
1820 Rev Charles Brooke owns.

**14. Market/Fair:**

**15. Real Property:**

1454 – £2 18s. 8d. rateable value  
1844 – £1,450 rental value  
1891 – £1,482 rateable value  
1912 – £1,130 rateable value

**16. Land ownership:**

1844/1891 Land sub-divided  
1912 E Brooke and G Abbott, principal owners

**17. Resident gentry:**

Sir Richard Gipps, one time Master of the Revels to King Charles II (1707)  
George Thomas, High Sheriff of Suffolk (1820)

**18. Occupations:**

1500–1600 Clothmaker, priest  
1600–1700 Husbandman, yeoman, webster, thatcher, parson  
1831 66 in agriculture, 6 in retail trade, 1 professional, 6 in labouring,  
9 in domestic service, 3 others  
1844 Victualler, carpenter, blacksmith, schoolmaster, publican, retail  
shopkeepers, insurance agent, farm bailiff

**19. Education:**

1818 1 school endowed by Sparkes Charity for boys (5 attend)  
1 Sunday school supported by subscription (40 attend)  
1833 2 daily schools (a) Sparkes Charity (5 males attend)  
(b) Private school (14 fee paying pupils)  
Sunday school (Baptist) 69 attend  
Public Elementary school built 1877, average attendance 1912 45  
Town Estate contributes £20 towards education 1895  
1 boarding school 1900  
'In no Degree an Elementary school' by H D Orriss. East Anglian  
Magazine, Vol 39, No 4, p.180.

**20. Poor relief:**

1776 £93 2s. 5d.  
1803 £293 17s. 3d.  
1818 £455 16s.  
1830 £687 12s.  
1832 £514 14s.  
1834 £394 8s.

**21. Charities:**

**Sir R Drury's Charity:**

1610 £4 p.a. for distribution to poor. 1 widow has place and £5 p.a. in  
Hawstead almshouse

**Jervis's Gift:**

Sir R Jervis: Gift of yearly sum for distribution to poor

**Sutton's Charity:**

1696 by will of John Sutton: £6 p.a. to 2 poor men. £12 to almshouse and coats.

**Sparkes' Charity:**

1721 by will of Thomas Sparkes: schooling for 5 boys

**Town Estate:**

1895 2 rent free cottages. £7 4s. 5d. distributed to poor. £20 to education. Rent from 23 acres distributed at Christmas and Lady Day.

**22. Other institutions:**

Town Estate Poorhouse 1840  
Village Hall built 1979

**23. Recreation:**

1844 1 beerhouse, 1 public house  
1891 2 public houses  
1937 1 public house  
20<sup>th</sup> cent. Football Club, Cricket Club, Tennis Club  
Old Coaching Inn demolished c.1968

**24. Personal:**

'Suffolk Jack' (Jack Quantrill) by himself. Suffolk Fair, October 1983, p.67.

**25. Other information:**

Base of Tudor Cross in churchyard

Village Hall completed 1979

Village sign erected 1983

Tithe map 1846

'Brockley and Memory Lane' by H D Orriss. Suffolk Fair, October 1981, p.65.

'A Smoke-curing chamber at Brockley' by J McCann. PSIA, Vol 35, p.117.