

# 1. Parish: Westley

**Meaning:** Water meadows

**2. Hundred:** Thingoe

**Deanery:** Thingoe

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

**RDC/UDC:** (W. Suffolk) Thingoe RD (1894–1974)  
St Edmundsbury DC (1974–)

## Other administrative details:

Civil boundary change 1934 part of parish transferred to Fornham All saints and part to Bury St. Edmunds.  
Ecclesiastical boundary change to create Bury St Edmunds parish of St. George 1958  
Ecclesiastical boundary change to create Bury St Edmunds parish All Saints 1962  
Bury St Edmunds County Court District.  
Thingoe and Thedwastre Petty Sessional Division.

**3. Area:** 1,240 acres (1912)

## 4. Soils:

- a) Deep well drained fine loam over clay, coarse loam over clay and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clay subsoils.
- b) Well drained calcareous coarse and fine loam soils over chalk rubble, deep non calcareous loam soils in places, slight risk water erosion

## 5. Types of farming:

1086		6½ acres meadow, wood for 12 pigs, 2 parts of mill
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, turnip
1969	Trist:	More intensive cereal growing and beans.

**6. Enclosure:**

1815 1,150 acres enclosed under Act of 1813

**7. Settlement:**

1978 Small development along Newmarket–Horringer road. Hall and Church separated. Localised farms.

**Inhabited houses:** 1674 – 10, 1801 – 13, 1851 – 24, 1871 – 31,  
1901 – 33, 1951 – 24, 1981 – 35

**8. Communications:**

**Road:** To Bury St. Edmunds and Horringer

**Rail:** Bury St. Edmund–Newmarket nearby, opened 1854  
still operational.

**9. Population:**

1086 – 22 recorded  
1327 – 15 taxpayers paid £1 13s. 11d.  
1524 – 12 taxpayers paid £6 18s. 8d.  
1603 – 42 adults  
1674 – 12 households  
1676 – 47 adults  
1801 – 88 inhabitants  
1831 – 132 inhabitants  
1851 – 118 inhabitants  
1871 – 172 inhabitants  
1901 – 152 inhabitants  
1931 – 246 inhabitants  
1951 – 73 inhabitants  
1971 – 120 inhabitants  
1981 – 109 inhabitants

**10. Benefice: Rectory (consolidated with Fornham All Saints)**

1254 Valued £6. 13s. 4d.  
Portion of Nunnery at Riddingfield £2. 10s £9 3s. 4d.  
1291 Valued £9. 6s. 8d.  
1535 Consolidated with Fornham All Saints. Valued £915s. 5d.  
1674 Rectory has 6 hearths  
1831 Glebe house. Joint gross income £770 p.a.  
14 acres glebe in Fornham, 32 acres 2R 26P in Westley.  
Valued £738. Yearly rent of £444 + £329. 6s. (from  
Westley) in lieu of tithes 1844  
1912 Joint nett value £450. 12 acres of glebe and residence.

**Patrons:** Lady Kytson (1603), Clare Hall, Cambridge (1831–)

- 11. Church: St. Thomas A'Becket**
- 1086 1/3 of church + 4 acres land  
 1744 Tower fall badly damaged church, restored  
 1835 Dismantled: position 1/4 mile west of new church

**St. Mary**  
 (Chancel, nave, W. tower and spire)

- 1835 Built from materials of old church

**Seats: 100 (1873)**

**12. Nonconformity etc:**

- 1606 1 person not attending church or taking communion  
 3 popish recusants  
 2 popish recusants accused of harbouring above (wife not attending church)  
 1676 1 nonconformist

**13. Manorial:**

**Westley otherwise Sextens/Sextins in Westley**

- 1086 Estate of 2 carucates belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds  
 Given to Abbey by Bishop Alfin of Elmham  
 Manor of Westley said to have originated in grant made by Gilbert de Clare  
 1281 2 carucates sequestered by Abbot for use of sacrist  
 1539–1798 Sir Thomas Kytson owns (linked to Hengrave)  
 Sir Thomas Gage owns  
 1807 John Stutter owns

**Sub-Manors**

**Leo's Hall/ Luce's Hall**

- 1148 Granted by Abbot to Leo (ancestor of de Hemegrave family)  
 1441 Humphrey, Earl of Stafford owns  
 1503 Leased to Thomas Lucas  
 1837 John Brooks owns

**Westley otherwise Pembroke al Dunham Hall**

- 1086 Richard fitz Gilbert owns (de Clare family)  
 Following the line of the Earls of Pembroke  
 1324 Capital messuage worth 2s. p.a. pigeon house worth 1/2 mark,  
 200 acres arable land worth £10. 10 acres meadow worth 8s.  
 pasture and rush at Teynene worth 1/2 mark  
 Held as of the Honor of Clare  
 1326 David de Strabolgi owns

1350	William de Hastings owns
1463	William Neville owns
1485	Jasper Tudor, Duke of Bedford owns
1510	Thomas Lucas owns (absorbed by Leo's Hall)
1613	John Markant owns
1657	Lady Penelopy Gage owns
1693	Sir Thomas Hervey owns

### **Fresels**

1286	Walter Fresel held in demesne 1 messuage and 46 acres of the Abbot
1548	John Page held 180 acres as of Honor of Clare
1569	Clement Pamen owns
c.1623	Roger Haughton owns
1735	Elizabeth Gage owns

#### **14. Markets/Fairs:**

#### **15. Real property:**

1454	£2 4s.
1844	£974
1891	£1,697 15s.
1912	£1,672

#### **16. Land ownership:**

1844/1912 Marquis of Bristol and Burrell family, principal owners.

#### **17. Resident gentry:**

c.1556	Thomas Lucas, Recorder of Colchester, High Sheriff of Essex
1617	Sir Thomas Lucas, High Sheriff of Essex 1617

#### **18. Occupations:**

1500–1600	Minister, parson, yeoman, clerk
1600–1700	Yeoman, shepherd, husbandman.
1831	32 in agriculture, 2 in retail trade, 2 in domestic service 3 others
1912	Farmers/merchant, blacksmith, farm bailiff

#### **19. Education:**

1818	Report on education observes: Children mostly employed in husbandry. Little opportunity for instruction except on Sunday 1 Sunday school supported by subscription (29 attend) 1 school kept by widow (15 attend)
1833	1 Sunday school (14 attend)
1912	Children attend school at Fornham All Saints

**20. Poor relief:**

1776	£59 4s. 9 d.
1803	£96 14s. 5d.
1818	£182 1s. 0d.
1830	£140 19s. 0d.
1832	£182 6s. 0d.
1834	£136 13s. 0d.

**21. Charities:**

**Kytson's Charity:**

1624	by will of Lady E. Kytson: 16s. p.a. + 1 gown/coat for poor person per year
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**22. Other institutions:**

**23. Recreation:**

**24. Personal:**

**25. Other information:**

Evidence to suggest Roman occupation: wells sunk

Manor house site: adjoining road from Westley to Fornham All saints, near Newmarket road.

'Westley Backsliders' by P. Christie. East Anglian Magazine Vol. 40, p. 276.