

1. Parish : Fornham St. Martin

Meaning: Enclosure by trout stream

2. **Hundred:** Thedwastre

Deanery: Thedwastre (–1937), Thingoe (1937)
Abolished ecclesiastically, united with Fornham St. Genevieve (1957)

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

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

Other administrative details:

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

3. **Area:** 1,294 acres land (1912)

4. **Soils:**

Mixed: a. Deep well drained sandy soils, some very acid. Risk of wind erosion
b. Stoneless mainly calcareous clay affected by groundwater. Risk of flooding near river.

5. **Types of farming:**

1086		2 cobs, 4 cattle, 12 pigs, 80 sheep
1500–1640	Thirsk:	Sheep-corn region, sheep main fertilising agent, bred for fattening. Barley main cash crop.
1813:	Young:	932 acres arable land, 116 acres grass (includes Fornham St. Genevieve)
1818	Marshall:	Management uniform. Rotation usually turnip, barley, clover, wheat
1937	Main crops:	Wheat, barley, sugar beet
1969	Trist:	Deficiencies in minerals are overcome and these lands are now more suited to arable farming with wide range of produce grown

6. **Enclosure:**

1820 1,160 acres enclosed in St. Genevieve and St. Martin under Private Acts of Lands, 1817

7. Settlement:

1978 Small compact development, central church. Secondary settlement at Barton Hill. River Lark forms part of western boundary, Sugar Beet factory intrudes into southern part of parish, scattered farms.

Inhabited houses: 1674 – 20, 1801 – 22, 1851 – 57, 1871 – 71, 1901 – 65, 1951 – 95, 1981 – 269

8. Communications:

Roads: To Bury St Edmunds, Great Barton and Fornham St. Genevieve
1891 Carrier to Bury St. Edmunds on Wednesday and Saturday

Rail: 1891 2 miles Bury St. Edmunds station:
Bury St Edmunds–Thetford line opened 1876, closed for passengers 1953, closed for goods 1960.
Bury St Edmunds–Long Melford line opened 1865, closed for passengers 1961, closed for goods 1965.
Bury St Edmunds–Cambridge line opened 1879.
Bury St Edmunds–Ipswich line opened 1845.
Bury St Edmunds–Haughley line opened 1846.

Water: 1889–1901 Lark Navigation scheme

9. Population:

1086 – 28 recorded
1327 – 14 taxpayers paid £1 15s. 6d. (includes Fornham St. Genevieve)
1524 – 17 taxpayers paid £2 17s. 8d.
1603 – 60 adults
1674 – 25 households
1676 – 86 adults
1801 – 160 inhabitants
1831 – 276 inhabitants
1851 – 322 inhabitants
1871 – 328 inhabitants
1901 – 282 inhabitants
1931 – 248 inhabitants
1951 – 341 inhabitants
1971 – 442 inhabitants

1981 – 795 inhabitants

10. Benefice: Rectory

1254 Valued £6 13s. 4d.
1291 Valued £8
1535 Valued £7 11s. 3d.
1674 Parsonage has 7 hearths
1831 Glebe house. Gross income £316 p.a.
1844 Great tithes commuted for modus of £350 p.a. Part of small tithes belongs to Fornham All Saints
1869 Annexed to Fornham St. Genevieve (receives £36 6s. 6d. p.a. from commuted tithes of that parish
1887 Combined glebe 6 acres 2R. Gross rent £8 p.a.
1891 Commodious residence (exchanged for old rectory house), 9 acres glebe

Patrons: Lady Kydson (1603), Duke of Norfolk (1831), Lord John Manners (1844), William Gilstrap (1874), G.E. Manners (1912)

11. Church St. Martin

(Chancel, modern N. vestry, nave, S. aisle, N. porch, W. tower)

1086 Church plus 16 acres free land as alms
14/15th cent. Main structure. N. porch of Tudor brickwork with stoup
1846 S. aisle built, rebuilt 1870

Seats: 125 appropriated, 125 free (1874)

12. Nonconformity etc:

1676 3 papists, 1 nonconformist
1702–1852 2 houses set aside for worship

13. Manorial:

Fornham St. Martin

1066/86 Manor of 1 carucate belonging to the Abbot of St. Edmunds
1539 Linked with Santon Downham, Fornham St. Genevieve and Hengrave (Sir Thomas Kytson)
1602 Linked to Fornham St. Genevieve, Rougham and Dagworth (Darcy family) passing to Sir John Gage (linked to Preston, Fornham St. Genevieve, Stanningfield, Hengrave and Harleston)
1717 Philip Holman owns
1760 Sir Charles Egleton, executor of Samuel Kent – annexed to Fornham St. Genevieve

1789	Dukes of Norfolk (links with many manors throughout Suffolk)
1843	John Thomas Manners
1862	Sir William Gilstrap
1910	G. E. J. Manners owns (remains annexed to Fornham St. Genevieve throughout)

14. Markets/Fairs:

15. Real property:

1844	£1,668 rental value
1891	£1,874 rateable value
1912	£1,643 rateable value

16. Land ownership:

1844	Lord John Manners, sole owner
1891	Sir William Gilstrap, sole owner
1912	G.E.A. Manners, sole owner

17. Resident gentry:

1680	1 gent
1844	Lord Manners, J.D. Merest
1891	Sir William Gilstrap
1912	W.H. Claughton, Major F.W. Duff, J.P., Rev. J.S. Pratt, B.A.

18. Occupations:

1442	Rector
1497	Bed weaver
1500–1549	1 miller
1550–1599	1 smith, 1 yeoman, 2 husbandmen, 1 thatcher
1600–1649	1 shepherd, 6 yeomen
1650–1699	2 yeomen, 2 labourers, 1 husbandman, 1 spinster, carpenter, 1 miller, 1 maltster
1844	Carpenter, wind and water mills, 2 victuallers, blacksmith, 2 shopkeepers, schoolmistress, shoemaker
1912	Sub-postmaster, schoolmistress, 2 farmers, publican, blacksmith, gardener, insurance agent, land agent, Fornham Mills

19. Education:

1833	2 infant schools (20 attend)
1836	Free school built by Duke of Norfolk
1872	Enlarged by Sir William Gilstrap (87 attend)

1873	Teachers residence built Public Elementary school built, average attendance 1912 65
1887	Converted to village hall

20. Poor relief:

1776	£42 5s. 2d.
1803	£165 11s. 10d.
1818	£281 5s.
1830	£222 14s.
1832	£163 7s.
1834	£136 11s.

21. Charities:

Doles:

1840	£4 10s. p.a. applied with poor rate
------	-------------------------------------

Lady Kytson's Charity:

1840	Cloth for coat, stuff for gown, given alternate years to poor persons
------	---

Town Land:

1840	2R 14P applied with poor rate
------	-------------------------------

Church Property:

1817	Church house let at £2 14s. 4½d. to church repairs
1836	Bequest of Edward Mower: £3 6s. 8d. to purchase of coals

22. Other institutions:

Fornham Guilds:	Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Martin 1480, St. Peter 1483, St. Genevieve 1490, St. Trinity 1481
1803	3 Friendly Societies (93 members)
1886	Village Institute built by the Sultan of Johore as memorial to Sir Henry St. George Ord
1887	Village Hall established in village school. In need of renovation 1986.
1985	Fornham House converted into home for the elderly

23. Recreation:

1844	The Swan and The Woolpack public houses
1891/1912	The Woolpack public house

1975 Lark Valley golf course and Country Park
1979 Bury St. Edmunds Small Bore Rifle Club

24. Personal:

25. Other information:

'Hedges of Fornham St. Martin, Suffolk 1759–1970', by D.A. Hamilton 1983.
Could be of interest re studies of enclosure.

Routes for planned village by-pass revealed 1987.

Voluntary military encampment situated in field opposite church 1782.

Barrack Cottages, built c.1750, of unusual design, origin unknown.

Part of the lands of Babwell Friary are in this parish.

'Fornham Folklore', Suffolk Fair 1979, p.29.