



# The Hundred Parishes

An introduction to

## BROXTED



**Location:** 4 miles east of Stansted Mountfitchet and 4 miles northwest of Great Dunmow.

**Ordnance Survey grid square:** TL5727. **Postcode:** CM6 2BE. **County:** Essex.

**District:** Uttlesford. **Access:** south off B1051. Regional Cycle Route 60.

**Bus:** 316 (Mon to Sat) between Saffron Walden, Thaxted and Stansted Airport.

**Population:** 526 in 2001, 508 in 2011, 550 in 2021.

Broxted is a small rural parish and, like so many of the Hundred Parishes, comprises a number of scattered communities at various “Ends” – Chapel End, Brick End, Church End, Moor End and Woodgates End. These, together with the hamlets of Sucksted Green and Cherry (or Chaureth) Green, make up the parish.

It is thought that the name originated in Saxon times as “Brock’s head”. Brock was an old name for badger and this may have been a place where a badger’s head marked a site for heathen sacrifice. Fortunately, times have moved on!

Broxted has escaped the attention of modern developers, mainly because of its proximity to Stansted Airport. The end of the runway is just a mile from the village and many properties are beneath the flightpath.



St Mary’s Church dates from the 13th century and the nave has original thin lancet windows.

More recent additions are the two “Hostage Windows”. The Window of Captivity and the Window of Freedom (shown below) were installed following the release in 1991 of the journalist John McCarthy.



McCarthy had been held captive for five years in Lebanon with other hostages including Terry Waite and Brian Keenan. The McCarthy family used to live next to the church in Church Hall, now the Whitehall Hotel. Previously this had been the home of the local Member of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister, Baron Butler of Saffron Walden, better known as Rab Butler.



Despite its small population, Broxted has a total of 46 listed buildings, including 17th-century Oakmeads, pictured below right. It is also a parish of ancient country lanes with fine views such as the one here, from Broxted Hill looking towards 16th-century Muscombs, just over the parish boundary in Great Easton



Broxted is home to some lovely domestic gardens, including those of these two houses and also at Hill Pasture which was described in 1972 as 'the most beautiful small garden in England'.

These and several other gardens were opened by Broxted's residents to the public to raise funds for the successful Stop Stansted Expansion (SSE) campaign at the beginning of the 21st century. Broxted is also home to the SSE Wood, planted by campaigners in 2004 on farmland that the airport had earmarked for part of a proposed second runway.

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#### **Hospitality:**

Prince of Wales Public House & Restaurant – 01279 850256 - [www.princeofwalesbroxted.com](http://www.princeofwalesbroxted.com)

Church Hall Farm B&B – 01279 850858 - <https://www.church-hall-farm.co.uk/>

**Hundred Parishes Society walk number 120** starts from the village hall and explores much of the parish.

#### **Adjacent parishes:**

Takeley, Elsenham, Henham, Chickney, Debden, Thaxted, Great Easton & Tilty, Little Easton.

#### **Links:**

Parish Council: <https://broxted-pc.gov.uk/>

History: [www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk/broxted/broxted.html](http://www.recordinguttlesfordhistory.org.uk/broxted/broxted.html)

#### **Further reading:**

*The Five Parishes – a brief history*, Claire Squibb.

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