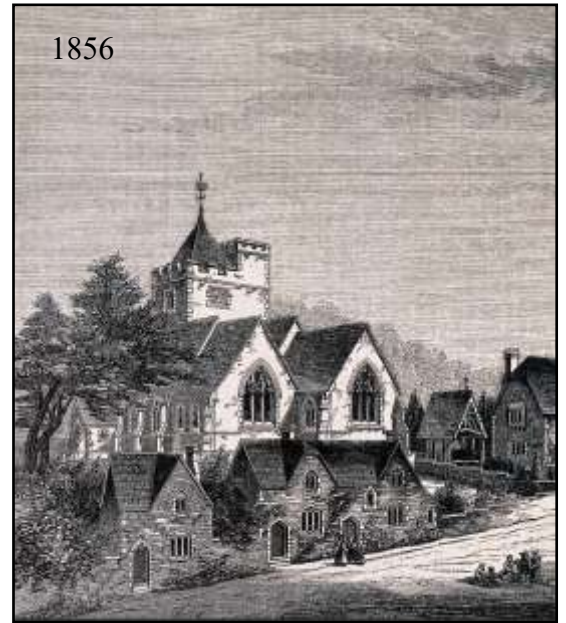


The yew was recorded by Fred Holbrooke in 1806 as 'a very fine Yew Tree in the churchyard'. The tree appears in his drawing entitled *Angmering Church*, but I have been unable to locate a copy.



The tree does however appear in these two old drawings. Enlarging the yew (below) reveals what appears to be two trunks, with that on the left side dividing into two upright branches. It would seem likely that these were yew fragments that have enlarged and coalesced during the intervening 170 or so years, as seen in Peter Norton's photos below, taken in 2013.

The image on the left (C1845/51) is owned by the British Museum, reference 1856, 1011.29, AN1036507001.

The image on the right is 'The Village of Angmering, showing the church and schools. Wood engraving by W.E.Hodgkin, 1856, after B.Sly. Credit: Wellcome collection, CC BY.



Mee wrote in his *King's England* series c1940 that 'for most of its centuries the 590 year old tower has had as its companion a fine yew'.

In 2009 Owen Johnson described it as 'a forking tree, just starting to hollow, with a girth of 590cm (19ft 4in) around the base (allowing for two gravestones which it is swallowing)'. He observed that it was regrowing vigorously after having been cut back severely about 40 years ago.

In 2013 Peter Norton recorded it as a male yew with a reduced crown but much healthy foliage. Two headstones were in the process of coalescing with the tree, with one leaving a small gap to tape behind. In a few years time this will be gone and repeat measurements will not be possible. With the tape undulating and close to the ground a minimum girth of 19' 2" was recorded.



In October 2009 Angmering Village Life News Archive published the following:  
'Earlier this year, the Church authorities, with the agreement of Arun District Council, reduced the crown of the Yew by one third. A tree expert's opinion was that incorrect advice had been given which has resulted in serious damage to the tree which will take a number of years to recover. What is of concern is that, such is the present poor state of the tree, a number of people have been overheard saying that the tree is in a sad state, or is dying, and should be removed. We must not allow this to happen. The tree has recently been added to the Tree Register of the British Isles as a Notable Tree and has been entered on the Ancient and Veteran Yew National Gazetteer. Notwithstanding this, the tree is in danger of future inappropriate treatment if action is not taken to prevent this by placing a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on it. Mike Pearn, a village resident with a particular interest in trees, has written a definitive article on the churchyard Yews and the need for TPOs to be placed on both the ancient tree and a 19thC one. Arun District Council for some reason does not think the ancient tree meets the TPO criteria but Mr Pearn, Dr Owen Johnson (the tree expert) and others think they are seriously mistaken. Angmering Village Life supports Mr Pearn's campaign to have a TPO placed on these trees to safeguard them for future generations of villagers as they are part of our heritage'.

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