

1888: 'To the north east of the church is an ancient yew tree of some centuries' growth, and others not quite so old'. *Excursion on Saturday April 1st 1888 led by Mr C.Lynam*

1915: 'On the north side of the church stands a remarkable yew tree. It leans over the churchyard path in so threatening a manner that numerous props have recently been placed to support it. The trunk is completely hollow, and a large hole in the outer thin shell allows several people at a time to shelter within. In spite of this deficiency the upper branches are quite vigorous and appear in perfect health. It has been computed that the tree is at least 1000 years old, hence it was quite a patriarch when the act of Ed. III. required the planting of yews in churchyards to supply the tough bows necessary to the English long-bow men'. From *Astbury and its History* (1915) by Newbold, p186/7

1998: Morton considered the yew to date from 'Saxon times.....on viewing it today it is incredible that it still lives'. *Tree Heritage of Britain and Ireland*

The first 2 photos are from my visit in 1999. Though we will never know how large this tree once was, its vast old age cannot be doubted. One prop prevents the tree from falling across the path. Although only one branch grows above a height of about 20', the 2007 photos from Ian Robert Brown show that the tree carries abundant foliage.

