



2009: The female yew grows south of the church and only 6 metres from the porch. In a year that was noted for the abundance of arils (berries) on female yews, there were surprisingly few to be seen on this one. With its solid 12' high bole topped with numerous thick branches, it has a formidable presence in the churchyard. I found one hollow space, about 5' up on the west side and extending about 2' into the tree.

The yew was first noted in 1946 in Cornish's *The Churchyard Yew and Immortality*. Cornish was given details of a yew with a girth of 'about' 15ft by H.Gardner. Sixty three years later in 2009, the lowest girth I was able to obtain was 18' 11" at a height 3' above the top of a nearby table tomb. This would mean an increase in girth of almost 4' in 63 years, an unusually rapid growth rate in a mature yew. It suggests to me that Gardner's 'about' 15' should be considered to be no more than an estimate.

