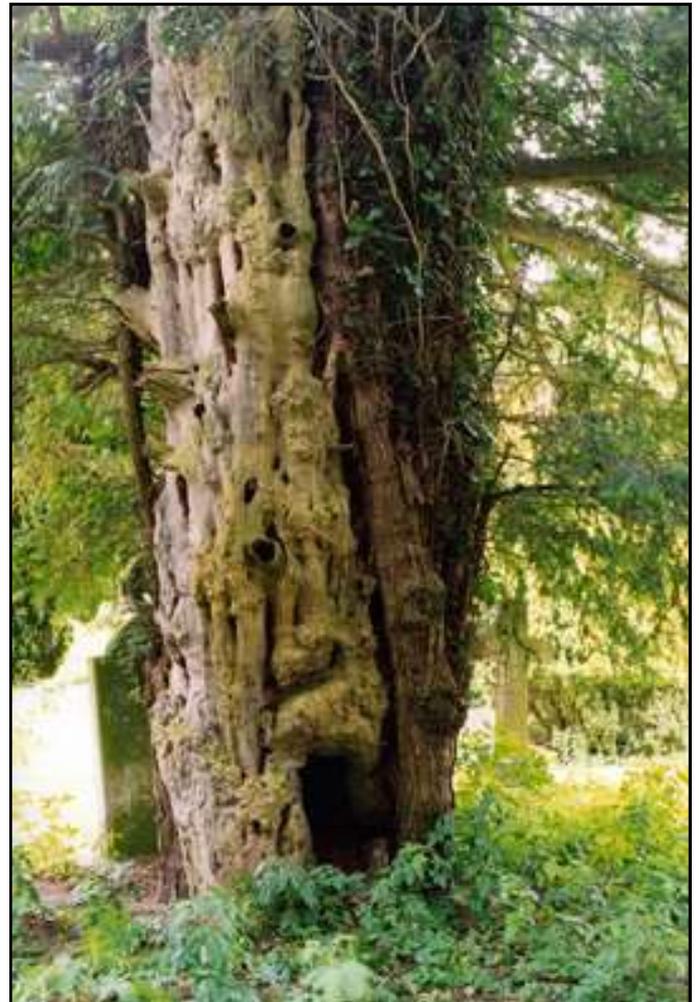


It is my understanding that the Parish records of 11th September 1828 contain an instruction signed by the Archbishop of Northumberland that 'the old yew...in the churchyard should be carefully preserved'. The *National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland* of 1868 noted that 'the churchyard contains a yew-tree of venerable age'.

2002: The male yew (left) grows NE of the church and is more interesting, and probably older, than its girth of 17' 1" at 3' might suggest. As far as I could tell it has become two separated trees, the space between them currently filled with large pieces of the original trunk. The twisted nature of this tree is most noticeable where a thickened 'root' has developed (B), helping to anchor it. The entire structure is held together with chains and metal strapping both at 3' and between 7'/10'. Fragment (A) supports several substantial growth areas, one leaning in the same direction as (B) and a further two upright. More chains and wires have been wrapped around the branches to hold both sides of the tree together. Fragment (B) is one large, thick leaning trunk which divides into several branches. Old wood being enveloped by new growth is clearly visible.

The female yew (right) grows SW of the church. It is a rare sight to see the old sapwood shell intact to a height of about 20', while the new tree gradually grows around it. Much of this new growth was hard to see behind ivy, though this appears to have been cut at the base and should eventually disappear. Girth: 14'4" at 1'; 15' 10" at 3'; 16' 1" at 5'.



A third yew also grows SW of the church. It is male with a girth of 11' 8" at 1'. Its small girth belies an appearance of great age, with much of the original trunk visible in the centre of the tree and poking through the new outer skin in places. Several sturdy branches stretch upwards from about 8'.