

In 1939 Mee wrote in *The King's England* that 'the churchyard has 2 great yews, one perhaps 500 years old with a trunk 19' round'. The 1791 watercolour painted by Rev. Williams shows tree 1 at a time before the development of three branches that give its crown such a distinctive shape today. These are unusually tall trees, and in *The Eternal Yew* 1992, Baxter noted the height of one of them to be 73'.

1999: The two tall female yews grow on mounds at the east end of the church on the south side. Tree 1 consists of a thickened shell around a small hollow. To either side of this are two of the main growth points while a third rises from the back of the hollow. All three have grown vigorously through the lower canopy to create a tree of unusual appearance. Branches dipped towards the ground around the tree, hiding the drying grass clippings that had been piled beneath it.

Tree 2 grows on a very steep mound. Its bole is solid, dividing at 4/5' into a central section supporting large branches and smaller outer growth. Foliage was dense. Each tree had a girth of 18' 7"; tree 1 was measured at 2' and tree 2 at its lowest point, which includes some twiggy growth.

The painting is reproduced with the permission of Shropshire Archives, ref 00012552, 6001/372/3 (264/16401).

