

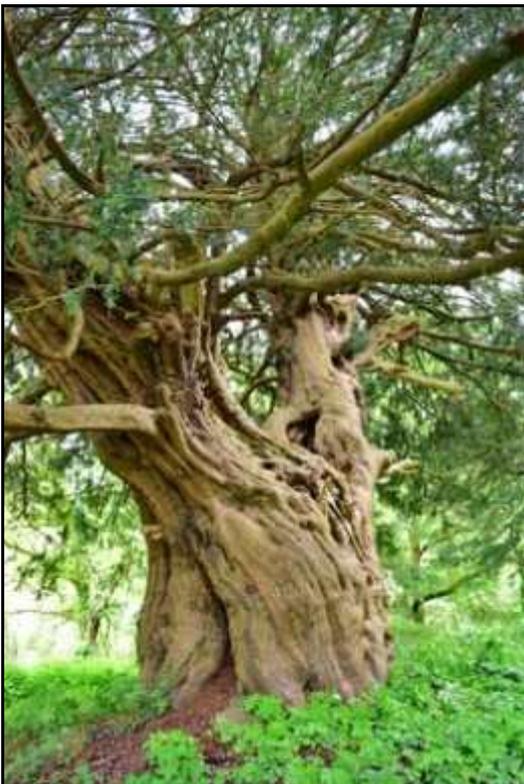
Nothing is known of the origin and early history of this church. A reference in The Episcopal Register of St Davids refers to the church at Cantref in 1402.

The Brecon Yew Survey (1970) recorded the 3 trees on the south side with girths of 23', 18' and 14'.

The largest girthed, SE of the church, is seen (left) in 2000. It is male with a 6' high bole supporting two thick branches. It is full of holes and hollows and there is much combining of internal and outer growth. Girth was 21' 8" at 1' and 22' 9" at 3'.



The other photos were taken by Paul Wood in 2016. He noted that the tree was looking in fine condition, though with a little broken glass around the base. He recorded a girth of 21' 9" (6.63m) at 1'.



A female yew at the top of a bank SSE of the church is seen here in 2006. I recorded girth as about 20' between the ground and 1' in 2000 and noted that many of its leaves were brown.



Paul Wood's photos below show the yew in 2016. Though the tree was quite accessible he noted that the ground was quite loose, dry and sandy and there was some broken glass scattered around. The yew has very upright short twiggy growth and a lot of small dead branches as well as live wood all over its gnarly and lumpy bole. Foliage was very yellow. A measure was taken (with difficulty) at the height of the ground bulge on the south side of the tree and a girth of 19' 9" (6.02m) was recorded, confirming the estimate made in 2000.



The third and smallest of the trio grows in line with the first two. In 2006 what little was left of it was enveloped by ivy.



In 2016 the bole was visible and Paul Wood was able to establish that 95% of it was dead wood and foliage sparse. Nettles, brambles and long grass prevented measurement.



2000: An avenue of 9 yews leads to the church on the north side. If a record of the planting date could be found this would provide useful evidence of the growth rate of yews in this area. There were formerly 5 on each side, though one has been reduced to a stump.



2016: Paul Wood: On 7th May a powerful thunder storm caused much tree damage in this area, which included the yew avenue at Cantref.



In 1834 an entry in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* recorded the following: 'At a distance of 12' from the ground, a mountain ash has taken root and not deriving sufficient nourishment from the old tree on which it grows, has struck down its roots through the decayed trunk, which have long since penetrated into the earth'. The trunk described as 'decayed' 170 years ago still supports mountain ash, a clear example of the how long dead yew sapwood can last, even when open to the elements.

