

Little seems to be known about the early history of this church, and it is not included in 13th century taxation records. In *The Sacred Yew* (1996) it is stated that the 'church tower is built on a tumulus', and this theme has been taken up by other authors.

The Clwyd/Powys Archaeological Trust do not support this theory and consider that the earthworks are the collapsed material of an earlier tower, and that the mound 20m south of the porch contains material that 'suggests debris from a former restoration'. The ancient yew is possibly the oldest feature at this site.

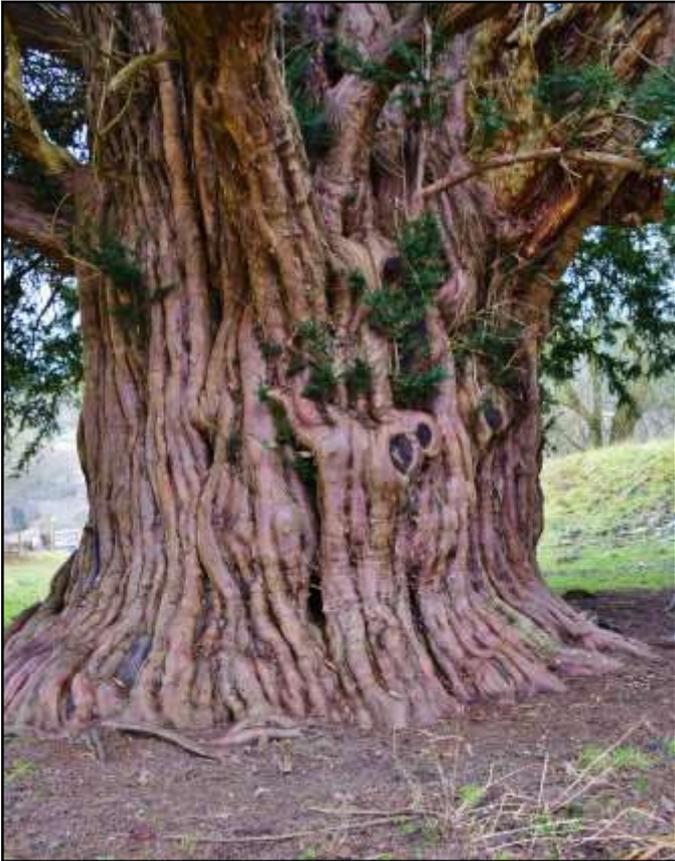
In 1970 there were two ancients here, recorded by the Brecon Yew Survey with girths of 25' and 26'. One fell in the 1987 hurricane. The farmer who lives nearby witnessed its destruction and told me she had planted the sapling (right) in 1998 in the position where the lost yew fell, NW of the church. It is found in the middle of a slightly raised area of ground, around the edge of which could still be found some remains of the decayed trunk of the lost tree. Whatever age the sapling was when planted, it has been growing with much vigour.



The ancient yew that has survived is this exceptionally fine fluted specimen, a female growing SW of the church tower. It is seen on this page in 2011, when I recorded a girth of 25' 8" at 3'.



photos below taken by Paul Wood in 2015



© Tim Hills/Paul Wood - Ancient Yew Group - 2019