

Chapel Allerton church is aligned ENE/WSW

In his 1791 *History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*, Collinson described 'a large yew tree, the trunk of which at 5' measured 17' in circumference'.

In 1894 Rev. J. Gilbert informed Lowe that the 'trunk is filled in with brick-work; tree is still vigorous and beautiful'. *Yew-Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*

In *The King's England* 1941, Mee reported that it had become 'so hollow that it is supported with stones'.

I visited twice, in 1999 and 2015 and recorded girth as follows:

1999: 16' 5" just above the roots; 16' 0" at 3' ; 13' 2" at 5'
2015: 16' 11" just above the roots; 16' 1½" at 3'; 13' 6½" at 5'

The girth recorded in 1791 is considerably more than today, indicating the loss of large sections of its bole over time.

In 1999, ivy covered most of the bole as well as the square stone plinth around the tree, though it was still possible to see brick work in the hollow of the male yew.



By 2015 when the tree was photographed, the area around the tree had been tidied and the yew could be seen at its best.



Two younger yews share the churchyard. All three are seen in the photograph below. Tree 2 is male with a girth of 7' 11" at 2'. Tree 3 is female and appeared to be of similar girth to the male, but thorns and twiggy growth prevented measurement.

