

This yew has been documented since 1848, when it was described in the *Topographical Dictionary* as 'a curious old yew-tree'.

1883: "The churchyard is historic as the church itself, and contains yew trees of enormous growth . A record shows that the largest of these was planted more than fourteen hundred years ago." *Society excursion on Saturday May 19th 1883 led by Mr T.S.Wilkins*

1904: "Here stands a magnificent yew tree, which spreads its branches further than any other yew tree in Derbyshire, whilst the size of the trunk is only exceeded by the one at Darley Dale'. *Journal of proceedings Vol xxxix Walk led by Rev. C.F.L.Barnwell on Tuesday August 23rd transactions 1904/1905*



The church's own *Guide and Brief History* describes a yew which 'dominates the entrance and spreads towards the fine wrought-iron gates.....The yew itself has been variously aged, most consider that it is at least 1,000 years old - therefore pre-dating the present stone Church. The tree, so carefully propped and maintained has, not surprisingly attracted considerable attention and is the subject of a legend: namely that Maid Marion and Robin Hood were betrothed under its branches'. Jane Middleton

1999: The female yew grows ESE of the church, its large visible bole hinting at greater girth in the past. Props hold up its many large and spreading branches, keeping them above head height on the path leading to the church. A double circle of chains helps prevent the bole from splitting outwards. At about 6' and facing the path the tree bulges as new wood grows over removed branches. Overall the tree appeared in excellent health.

Girth: 1904 '23 feet, the spread of the branches 63 feet by 72 feet, and the circumference 212 feet'.

1999: 20' 7" at 3' and 21' 3" at 5'.

