

The church has a long and dramatic history. There may have been a succession of wooden buildings on this sandstone ridge from as far back as Celtic times. In 1086 the Domesday Book records that there was a village priest and two other priests with land in the area, indicating the church's importance at that time. The outline of the present building and the tower date from the 14th century, about the time that the bridge was built over the Dee at Farnon. Not much is known about the medieval building, although in about 1622 the historian Webb described it as "a fair new church". However, during the Civil War in the 17th century, when soldiers were billeted inside and fighting reached the churchyard, such extensive damage was inflicted that in 1658 the church, except for the tower, had to be completely rebuilt.

In 2010 Dean Loftus and Kathy Pilling recorded the female yew that grows north of the church. It is hollow in places with much dead heartwood but also plenty of new growth and a large healthy crown. There was evidence of lower branches and limbs having been removed. About 8 feet up the trunk the tree seems to have picked up a rock of about 7 inches during its growth.

The yew is hollow in places. The photo below left shows a fluted internal stem (A) once enclosed inside of what would have been the tree's original trunk, with part of the sapwood shell (B) still in place. After another hundred years of sapwood decay the internal stem will be on the outside of the tree. This yew's girth has undoubtedly been larger than its present 20' 5" at 3'.

