‘A gnarled monster…. grappling the steep bank, full of years and vigour’. This was how Mee recorded this remarkable tree in The King’s England 1939. Perhaps the lack of earlier references is due to the remoteness of this site.

In 1986, Morton’s Trees of Shropshire described ‘a tree over 7m (23’) in girth, with huge branches spreading over the lane - a majestic specimen’. Morton also noted that there was a ‘holy well in the bank directly below the tree. A spring is also located across the road. An old track leading to Clee Hill from the churchyard was once apparently lined with yews which have been felled’.

1999: In Revd Williams 1791 watercolour, the yew is reached across a grassy churchyard. Two hundred years later it has spread its branches to the ground where many have layered and created new trees. In 2004 access to the tree was a path cut through the dipping branches. In that year I recorded a girth of about 24’ 2” at 1’.

The next photos by Geoff Garlick show the bole in 2005
I revisited in 2015 to find a much decorated tree.