

31st July 2015: The church dates from the 13th century, though this place was known about in Roman times. The yew, which grows SE of the church, is an exceptional fragment of a tree whose original size we can only guess at. The whole structure, which leans slightly, supports a large number of branches filled with thick and healthy foliage. Propped inside the tree is a stone containing the lines reproduced below. Girth of this hollow yew was 15' 6½" at 1'. Also in churchyard, SW of the tower, is a 6' high bushy yew, probably planted to celebrate the millennium.



Here stands a tree long past its prime, yet still

Most wonderfully hale and vigorous;

Centuries are trifles wherewith to tell

The glorious story of its lengthy days;

As well attempt a colosseum huge

With golden sands from off the sea-swept shore

As herald its triumphant battle with

The ephemeral things we mis-name time.

Time! It mocks at time and all the puny race

Of men, long since passed in generations

To the land beyond this vale of sorrow-

While its umbrageous branches, vernal yet

And glowing with the strength and sap of life,

Seem to defy the raging tempest and

The thing called death – To work their worst abuse.

As phoenix like from glowing ashes rise

Its wonted fires, as ever on it lives

Co-equal with – and of – eternity.

JOHN HUGH CHALKER 1863 - 1936

