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