

This is a well documented yew, starting with this b/w photo of Petrie's 1807 watercolour, which shows a squat trunk and low canopy that is still in evidence today. The artist has moved the tree from its position west of the tower so that it can appear in the painting.

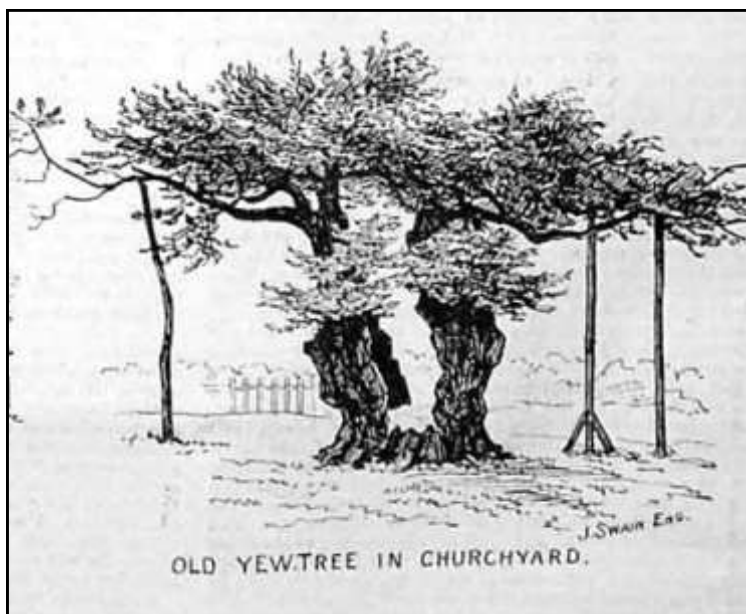
In 1835 the following account appeared in *The Mirror of Literature, Amusement and Instruction*, and later in *ARBORETUM AND FRUTICETUM*. PART 111. 'I saw a majestic yew, the greatest

circumference of which was thirty-one feet two inches ; at seven feet high, twenty-eight feet eight inches; diameter of the hollow, which, in October, 1833, when I saw it, some gipsies had been residing in it, eight feet six inches ; height to the lowest branch, seven feet eleven inches ; total height, thirty-two feet four inches ; spread of the branches, fifty feet'.

The 1842 *Journey-book of England* (Derbyshire, Hampshire, Kent) noted two yews in the churchyard, 'one of which is of the extraordinary circumference of 40 feet, hollow within, and shaped in the stem like a vast bulbous root of the lily tribe. It still vegetates on the exterior, which is curiously sheathed with the knotted overgrowths of a thousand years, of a purplish red colour; and its head is still as green as when-'it stood of yore, Not loth to furnish weapons for the bands that crossed the sea And drew their bows at Azincour'.'

In the 1884 drawing (left), which appeared in *The illustrated sporting and dramatic news*, the tree is seen to have almost become two separated fragments.

In 1892 the photograph (right) was given to Lowe as part of his research for *The Yew Trees of Great Britain and Ireland*. The tree was described as 'in its decadence, a mere shell of the original trunk remaining.....there is not very much of the top remaining; it must have diminished largely within the last 60 years'. It too shows the bole almost completely split into two fragments.



In 1936 Mee's *King's England* noted 'two of Nature's sentinels standing by, old yews, one probably as old as the tower though by no means as sturdy, for it is split in two'.

In 1958 the Revd F.Tylie was asked by Swanton to describe the condition of the tree. He replied that 'It is still alive, though only a shell supported with iron rod across and enclosed within six foot iron railings, but the shell has much life in it and spreads out branches all round some distance'. *The Yew Trees of England* Swanton, E.W

By January 1999 the female yew appeared to have completely separated into two fragments. Each supported vigorous growth on young branches as the tree enters a new phase of regeneration. The 'new' canopy has not yet had time to spread and was contained in a neat ball shape. The iron rod, in place before 1958, remains clamped to the outside of each fragment to prevent further separation.

The following is a summary of measurements recorded since 1831 and appears in *The Sacred Yew* Chetan and Brueton (1994).

Dates visited	Girth measurements	
1831	31' 3"	Robert Mudie
1832	31' at greatest circ.	Robert Mudie
1837	31' 2" at greatest circ.	J.C.Loudon
1892	28' at the base	John Lowe
1892	32' at 3' 6"	John Lowe
1892	25' at 5"	John Lowe
1984	The yew is split and separated; any measurement would not be realistic	



In 1842 and 1936 a second yew was noted. According to the church guide this younger yew was uprooted in the storms of 1987. We noted a stump WNW of the church, next to which was growing its young replacement.