

'The churchyard is triangular, but there is at least a possibility that this is an early medieval foundation, notwithstanding a reference to a church being consecrated here around 1060' (CPAT) .

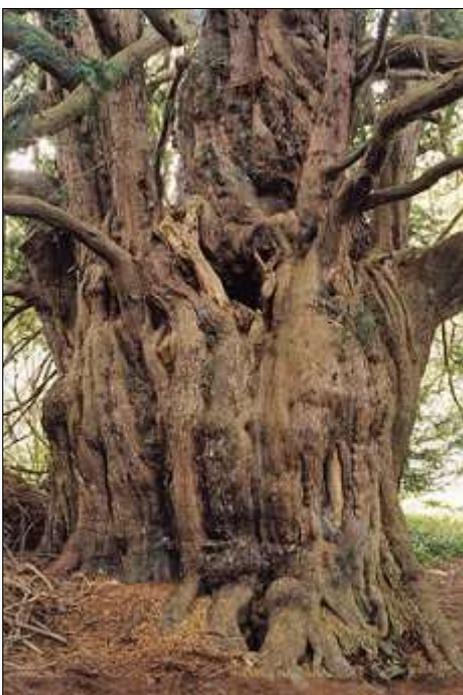
Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary of Wales* 1834: 'The churchyard is ornamented with some fine old yew trees, which are perhaps coeval with the tower', the oldest part of the church.



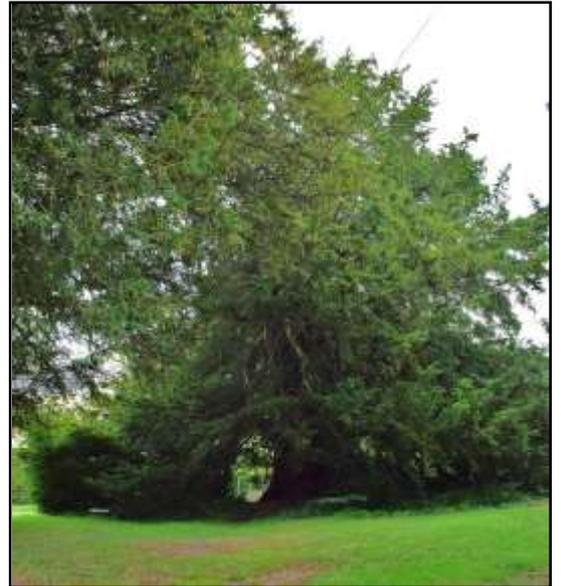
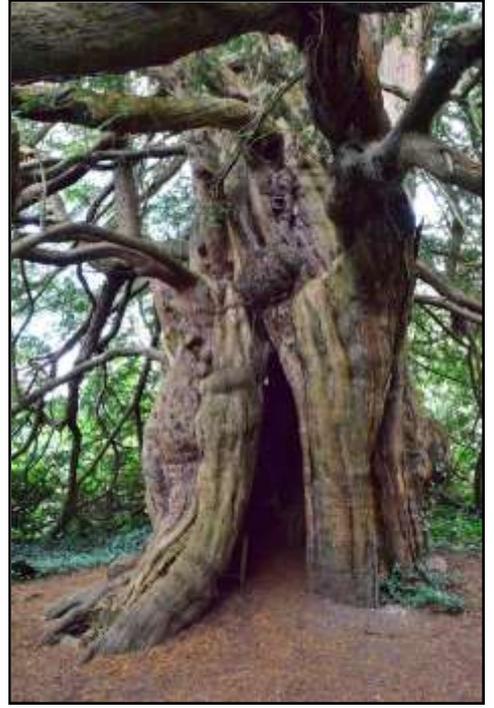
2000 - Tim Hills: Tree 1 is an outstanding specimen with a girth of 24' 6" at 2' growing north of the church. All around, its branches dip to the ground, some turning upwards on impact, many dipping vertically into the soil, helping anchor this massive tree. It is hollow, with one low entrance about 2' wide. An old wooden chair was perhaps left from the time when 16 local children are reported to have crammed themselves into the space.

There are other smaller gaps at ground level, as well as holes higher up in this circle of living wood; these mark where branches used to grow from the original trunk which once filled the centre. The hollow closes over at about 8', above this an unusual main branch develops. While the branch leans, the fluting remains vertical, giving it a twisted appearance.

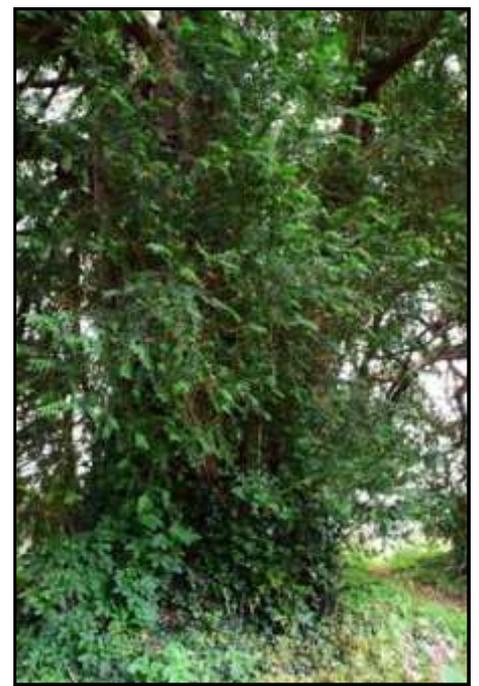
A notice requesting no dumping had been ignored and there was the familiar build up of dry combustible churchyard grass clippings.



In 2016 Paul Wood described a well looked after tree, its visibility and access as good as any yew tree he has seen. A full green canopy with a small amount of dead branches and the lower limbs allowed to touch the ground and stabilise the tree with many of them well entrenched. A little ivy on the tree and a small amount on the ground seemingly kept at bay by regular visits with a clear path around the tree. The horse-shoe shaped hollow was well formed with many internal stems of all sizes. This was home to 2 chairs well embedded within the trees growth. He measured at 2' and recorded a girth of 25' 2" (7.67m).



2016 Paul Wood: Tree 2 on the plan grows SE of the church. It is growing well with deep green foliage. Twigggy growth has been allowed to develop well up into the canopy and hides about 60% of the bole. A little ivy covered parts of the tree and the ground surrounding the tree. A piece of corrugated tin was being consumed by the tree. Measuring was only possible at ground level where girth was 19' 11" (6.07m). The twigggy growth and tin meant that it was not possible to inspect the inside of the yew.



Tree 3 on the plan has developed into a tree of two halves. The south side was covered in twigggy growth and a thin layer of ivy, while the north side was bare with no cover. The yew is hollow to about 10', with internal stems visible. It was only possible to measure at 4" from the ground (root crown) due to twigggy growth and a girth of 19' 5" (5.92m) was recorded.



Paul Wood also recorded the younger yews that grow here. Tree 4 on the plan (below left) grows 30m west of the ancient yew on the north side of the church. It had a solid bole which divides into three main leader branches at four feet. It had thin but plentiful foliage and a girth at the root crown of 11' 3" (3.43m).



Tree 5 (right) is outside of the churchyard on the eastern perimeter, growing precariously at the top of a bank on the edge of a 20'/30' drop to a stream. A featured stone entrance to a property as well as a wooden shed have been built right up against the tree.

I estimated girth to be 13'/ 14'. Given its location it was growing well.

Tree 6 on the plan had an estimated girth of 8', but was inaccessible behind weeds and brambles. It looked very healthy.



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