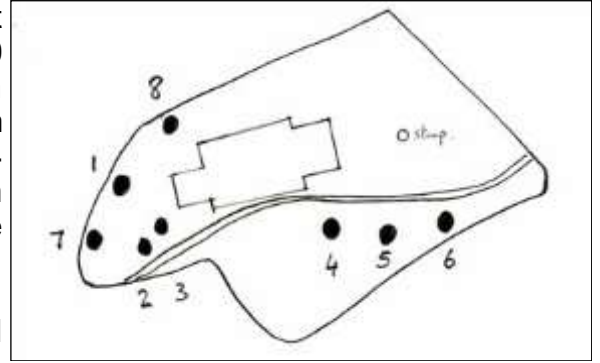


The original dedication was probably to a local Celtic saint Maelog. The present building only dates back about 700 years, but it is considered that there may have been a church here for as much as 1,500 years. 'The ancient yew trees in the churchyard show that this has for centuries been consecrated ground; the fact that the churchyard is circular, and on high ground, indicates that it was probably a pagan holy place before that'. *Church guide*

I visited in 1999 and 2012 and took photographs in 2012. Paul Wood's photos are from 2016.



Trees 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are Veteran.



Tree 1, female, grows on sloping ground west of the church. In 1999 its hollow space was being used as the churchyard's rubbish dump and chunks of concrete were propped against its bole. Girth was recorded from the higher ground keeping the tape horizontal: 17' 5" at 3' and 17' 1" at 5' in 1999.

It is seen here in 2012 when girth was 17' 6" at 3' and 17' 7" at 5'.



2016 Paul Wood: Concrete slabs were stacked against a tree that is slowly disappearing under a sea of ivy, which affects great swathes of ground north of the church. The hollow of this fine looking yew was stacked high with general rubbish and there was a lot of broken glass around. The tree has had a lot of cutback of the lower canopy in the recent past, so the yews here are obviously attended to. It was measured at 3' and a girth of 17' 6" (5.33m) was recorded. The yew looked quite healthy though foliage was a little sparse. A little ivy has crept onto its wonderful fluted bole.



Tree 6, female, has a fine solid looking trunk when seen from the path, but the others side reveals that it is hollowed out with internal growth. There were signs of fire damage in the hollow. Girth recorded in 2012 above the embedded stone and pile up of soil on its western side was 17' 8" at 2'.



Above left and centre Tim Hills 2012

Above right and below Paul Wood 2016



2016 Paul Wood: On the ground large amounts of churchyard waste surrounded the tree, raising the ground level and almost covering the gravestone leaning against it. Ivy, brambles and nettles were beginning to take hold though some was removed for the photographs. The canopy had a thin covering of foliage so it was possible to see a number of dead and broken branches. Since this is the most exposed tree at this site I suspect that the bad storm at the beginning of May 2016 may be partly to blame. It is an otherwise fine looking yew, with living and dead wood intertwined around its hollow bole. Measurement was not possible.

Tree 4, male, is hollow with stones propped against it. Its smallest girth was obtained between the ground and 1' and was 15' 1" in 2012.



Above left and centre Tim Hills 2012

Above right and below Paul Wood 2016



2016 Paul Wood: Gravestones still lean against the yew and a little ivy has encroached onto the south side. Foliage was quite thick, unlike many of the trees here. Its bole appeared a deep yellow colour in the sun. It was measured at 9" from the ground on the north side of the tree to obtain the smallest girth and 15' 3" (4.65 m) was recorded. A number of unbroken jam jars scattered around the yew were removed and placed in the bin 20 metres away. A small mound of grass cuttings was spread away from the tree on the south side.

Tree 2, male, is a hollow shell which expands as it gains height. 15' 5" at 3' was recorded in 1999 and 15' 6" at 3' in 2012.



Above left and centre Tim Hills 2012

Above right and below Paul Wood 2016



2016 Paul Wood: This is probably the best kept of the yews here. A small area on the NE side of the tree had a thin covering of ivy and a small amount of rubbish shared the hollow space with a rotting internal stem hanging down. The tree had a clean and distinctly yellow surfaced bole. Girth was recorded as 15' 6" (4.72m) at 3'. Foliage was sparse.

Tree 5 is a younger yew SE of the church. Measurement over ivy stems exaggerates the girth of 11' 7" in 2012. Paul Wood's 2015 photos show its fine fluted bole. He recorded 11' 4" at the ground.



Tree 3 is female that has been larger in the past. In spite of its scrappy appearance there was healthy growth on all parts of the tree. A girth of 11' 6" at the ground was recorded in 1999.

It was photographed by Paul Wood in 2016. He wondered how it was still standing with such a small area rooting it to the ground. There was a lot of rubbish piled against the tree and on its eastern side was a pile of broken glass and smashed grave ornaments. Along with ivy and twiggy growth this tree was unmeasurable. Ivy climbing well up into the canopy is likely to become a problem. In spite of all this it seemed to be growing well.



In 2016 Paul Wood recorded yews 7 and 8. Both were under serious threat from ivy, particularly tree 7. This yew was also surrounded by broken glass, rubbish and branches cut from other trees.



Yew 8 was approached across a sea of ivy. It seemed to be growing well, though foliage was thin. It was measured at the ground level on the church side and 11' 7" (3.53 m) was recorded.

