

It is generally accepted that these are three well developed fragments of a once vast ancient yew. In 1878 Edwin Lees, botanist and antiquarian, wrote the following: 'an extremely aged Yew in the churchyard of Llanvihangel-Generglyn, Cardiganshire, shows the original bole divided into twelve distinctly separated pieces to the ground, and thus a considerable space is taken up'.

Arthur Chater, local botanist and author of *Flora of Cardiganshire* published in 2010, lists the yew as one of great age, saying that 'What remains of this tree now are three trunks on a slight mound just NE of the church which, if they are the relics of a single tree, must represent a former trunk of some 900-1,200 cm girth, 2005 (AOC & JPW). That all three are female supports this view, but it is not impossible that Lees's twelve trunks could have been originally planted to make a ring, or that they were bunch-planted to grow together to form in time an apparent single trunk. In 1967 the largest and only satisfactorily measurable trunk was c.300cm girth at the base. In 2002 the Conservation Foundation put a plaque by the tree, estimating its age at 2,000 years'.



1999: These 3 fragments have a combined girth of about 35'. The section closest to the church is hollow and leans at 45 degrees. Many small branches grow along its entire length. The middle section leans away from the path. The largest (seen on the left) consists of 2 main fluted branches which further subdivide. At its base is a huge bulge of adventitious growth.

The yew reaches a height of no more than 20' and is hemmed in by the deciduous trees that fill this large rambling churchyard.