

Llanrhychwyn's main claim to fame is its church, which many claim is the oldest in Wales, allegedly marking the site where Rhychwyn originally established his church in the 6th century. It is known locally as Llewelyn's Church, and the oldest part dates from the late 11th century, which means that it is marginally older than the old church at Llangelynnin.

This is one of the most remote locations I have visited. But getting there was to be rewarded with not only several established yews, but also to discover that the tradition of yew planting lives on. Indeed one younger tree which had failed to thrive had already been replaced by another.

The veteran yew grows west of the church. It is male with a girth of 16' 2" at 2'. Large branches have been removed near its base.



To the SW is a female yew, on a small mound, with a girth of about 15' at its narrowest. As well as holly growing at its base another had rooted inside the tree.



photos—J.Shakespear

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