

In his 1880 paper read to Cardiff Naturalists Society, TH Thomas described the following: 'A yew tree worthy of note stands in the churchyard at Llanvair-Discoed, near



Wentwood. It is remarkable for its pyramidal form and pine-like aspect. The trunk has the greatest length of timber of any I have seen, being over 22'. Its age has been estimated at 700 years'. They also provided the following: 'sitting measurement is 21', at 4' high 18' 6", and at 6', 20'.'

In *Welsh Timber Trees* 1977 H.A.Hyde and S.G.Harrison, as a result of communication with P.H.B.Gardner in 1955, were able to give it a girth of 21 ft 4ins.

In 1986 J.Daryll Evans (*The Churchyard Yews of Gwent*) described that 'one great trunk extends to 8.4 metres in height.....with no lateral branches of any real size'. He recorded a girth of 700cm (23') at 1.5m.

I visited in March 1998 to find the tree little altered from the description in 1880. The male tree (which has also been recorded as female) grows on the south side of the church. It retains its considerable girth for about 15' and few branches developing below a height of 12'. A hollow is developing at (A) where a section of the trunk 6' high and 1' 6" across is decaying. Girth in 1998 was 22' 5" at 4'.

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