Madley is by tradition the birthplace of St Dyfrig (Dubricius) and was a destination for pilgrims from the 6th century. The present church dates from the late 11th to the mid-14th century. Two yews grow on the south side of the building.

The significant yew grows 20 metres south of the tower at the west end of the church. In 2016 it was measured 2" above ground level to avoid the top of the root crown on the one side of the tree, and a girth of 15' 1" (4.60m) was recorded. The hollow tree has a 5' opening on its west side and two six inch holes on its east side. There were a few dying branches which had been cut back to short lengths and the tree as a whole appeared to be kept in regular trim. A younger yew, with a girth of about 7" grows 20 metres SE of the veteran yew. This younger tree is becoming a focal point for cremation burials.